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"Our County and Its People"

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A History *of*
HAMPDEN COUNTY
Massachusetts

Editor
ALFRED MINOT COPELAND

Volume Three

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1902

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Alfred Minot Copeland

To

WILLIAM WHITING

ONE OF HOLYOKE'S MOST
HONORED CITIZENS

This volume is respectfully

Dedicated

Contents

CHAPTER I

THE CITY OF HOLYOKE—Early History, Settlement and Development—Town Organization and Civil List—Municipal History—City Civil List—The Fire Department—City Water Works—The Public Parks—Educational Institutions—The Public Library—The City Hospital—Young Men's Christian Association—Holyoke Street Railway Company—Banking and Financial Institutions—Industrial Holyoke—The Business Men's Association—Cemeteries—Ecclesiastical History—The French People of Holyoke 1

CHAPTER II

TOWN OF PALMER 123

CHAPTER III

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM 165

CHAPTER IV

TOWN OF SOUTHWICK 196

CHAPTER V

TOWN OF WEST SPRINGFIELD 210

CHAPTER VI

TOWN OF GRANVILLE 247

CHAPTER VII

TOWN OF MONSON 266

CHAPTER VIII

TOWN OF LUDLOW 312

CHAPTER IX

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY 335

CHAPTER X

TOWN OF CHESTER 348

CHAPTER XI

TOWN OF HOLLAND 394

CHAPTER XII

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW 410

CHAPTER XIII

TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW 429

CHAPTER XIV

TOWN OF RUSSELL 438

CHAPTER XV

TOWN OF TOLLAND 453

CHAPTER XVI

TOWN OF WALES 463

CHAPTER XVII

CITY OF CHICOPEE 482

CHAPTER XVIII

TOWN OF AGAWAM 523

CHAPTER XIX

TOWN OF HAMPDEN 542

Illustrations

The Old Blackbird Tree 4
Old Holyoke House 8
The Old Holyoke Dam 13
City Hall, Holyoke 15
William B. C. Pearsons, Portrait 18
"The Stretch," Springdale Driving Park 33
High School, Holyoke 35
South Chestnut Street School, Holyoke 38
City Hospital, Holyoke 50
The Almshouse, Holyoke 52
High Street, Holyoke 56
Old Crafts' Tavern 69
Third Level Canal 76
Joseph C. Parsons, Portrait 79
Old First Congregational Church, Holyoke 87
Convent of Notre Dame, Holyoke 104
Sacred Heart Convent and Parochial School, Holyoke . . 107
Washington Elm, Palmer 124
Historic Pine Tree, Palmer 125
Site of First Ordination, Palmer 131
Deacon Brainerd House, Palmer 138
Frink Tavern, Palmer 143
The Village Common, Three Rivers 145
Three Rivers—Baptist Church 146
Bondsville School Building 147
Palmer Business Blocks 148
View of Main Street, Palmer Village 149
Joshua Shaw House, Palmer 151
Baptist Church, from the Depot, Palmer Village . . . 153
Washington Tavern, North Wilbraham 167

Old House Built by Lieut. Mirick, Wilbraham 170
An Old-Fashioned House Front 177
Old Academy, Fisk and Binney Halls, Wilbraham . . . 185
Rich Hall and Principal's Residence, Wilbraham . . . 186
The Warriner Homestead, Wilbraham 187
The Old Tavern, North Wilbraham 191
Nine-Mile Pond, North Wilbraham 193
On Southwick Street 206
Congregational Church, Southwick 209
The Old Street, West Springfield 213
The Old Tavern Stand, West Springfield 232
A Valley View, Mittineague 233
Main Street School 235
School Building 236
Old Church on Orthodox Hill 242
Town Hall and Park Congregational Church 244
School Building, Mittineague 246
Granville Corners—Baptist Church 252
The Church on Granville Hill 260
Universalist Church, Granville Corners 263
House Built by David Hyde, Monson 269
Residence of Thomas Styles, Monson 273
A View in South Monson 277
Congregational Church, Monson 281
Memorial Town Hall, Monson 282
Lyon Memorial Library, Monson 285
Old Monson Academy 288
Monson Academy 289
Holmes Gymnasium, Monson 291
Monson Academy (General View) 292
The Library, Monson (Side View) 295
Hospital for Epileptics, Monson 297
Flynt Fountain, Monson 301
Cushman Fountain, Monson 307
Soldiers' Monument, Monson 309
The Road to Wales, South Monson 311
Ludlow Reservoir 313
Soldiers' Monument, Ludlow 321
Old-Fashioned Ludlow Mansion 323

Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow 327
Ludlow Hotel and Street View 329
Old Richard Falley Homestead, Montgomery 340
Montgomery 345
Old Bridge, Chester 351
Congregational Church, Chester Centre 365
Duty Underwood, Portrait 373
A Birds-eye View, Chester 379
Early Winter View in Chester 381
Holland Pond 396
Holland Church 406
Longmeadow Town Hall 421
Old Colton Place, Longmeadow 423
First Congregational Church, Longmeadow 427
A Stone Quarry, East Longmeadow 430
The Center—East Longmeadow 434
Old Mill on Blandford Road, Russell 443
High Bridge, Fairfield 448
Methodist Church, Russell 450
Tolland Center 461
The Village Fountain, Wales 472
Wales—A Street View 474
The Street near the Methodist Church, Wales . . . 480
Old Chapin Homestead, Chicopee Street 483
Historic House in Johnny Cake Hollow, Chicopee Falls . 488
The Dam—Chicopee Falls 499
A View of Chicopee in 1856 502
Old High School—Chicopee Falls 508
A Chicopee Falls School Building 509
New High School, Chicopee 510
City Hall—Chicopee 512
Chicopee Street 514
Old Universalist Church, Chicopee 519
Old House, South Agawam 530
School Building, Feeding Hills 532
Feeding Hills Street 537
The Stream in the Valley, Hampden 543
Congregational Church, Hampden 554
Baptist Church, Hampden 555

CHAPTER I

THE CITY OF HOLYOKE AND THE FACTORS IN ITS HISTORY

For a period of almost a century after the Pynchon colony was planted at Springfield, there was little attempt at founding other permanent settlements within the boundaries of the mother town. Two principal causes retarded settlement in these outward common lands; first, the original policy of the founders for many years opposed promiscuous granting of lands to all comers and none were admitted to the benefits of the proprietary unless "approbated" by the committe charged with the duty of investgating the "worthiness" of applicants for membership in the colony. Thus many pioneers who came into the valley region, rather than submit to the exactions of the proprietors, sought homes and lands among the less restricted settlements at Westfield, Hadley and Northampton; and thus it was that these other localities enjoyed more rapid growth than Springfield during the first three-quarters of a century following the establishment of the colony on the bank of the Connecticut in 1636.

The second and more serious obstacle to settlement and development of the outward commons west of the river was the hostility of natives, who, smarting under the treatment and methods of Captain Mason of the Connecticut colony (a policy directly opposite to that pursued by the more conciliatory Pynchon) were never afterward friendly with the whites; and while for many years there were no acts of violence on the part of the Indians, they were not trusted and every settlement had its fort for protection against their attacks. It is safe to assert that previous to King Philip's war there was no permanent white settlement within the limits of what now is Holyoke, and probably

none previous to about 1725; and even then, according to well established local tradition, the settlers betook themselves at night to the protection of a fortified house, the exact location of which no chronicler of Holyoke history has made known to us.

It may be stated, also, that from the time of the Pequot war (1637) to the close of the American revolution (1783) the settlers in the Connecticut valley knew little of the blessings of peace, and that during that long period of nearly a century and a half the settlements and habitations of the whites were all too frequently the objects of Indian attack. This long series of wars is the subject of special mention in an earlier volume of this work, hence need not be treated here. In the same connection, also, the reader will learn something of the character, habits and customs of the race which preceded the pioneer white man in the valley regions, yet there is little that is rich or interesting in the Indian history of this locality.

Evidences of the aboriginal occupation have been discovered in various localities of the city, and within comparatively recent years Indian burial places have been found within its corporate limits. It is thought, however, that this locality was not more than a favorite fishing and hunting resort for the Nonotucks, whose principal village was on the site of Northampton, or of the Woronocos of Westfield, or of the Agawams who centuries ago dwelt on the banks of the river further south. These, however, were allied branches of a single parent tribe, and while for years they professed friendship for the whites, King Philip's influence made them their most relentless and merciless foes.

During the latter part of the seventeenth century, notwithstanding all the annoyances caused by Indian depredations, there arose a clamor for a survey and distribution of the lands held by the proprietors of the town of Springfield, and so well known was the attitude of the proprietors that at last it was intimated that unless an allotment of the outward common lands was made, the general court would pass an act of forfeiture to the crown. This was intended to refer particularly to the land east of the Connecticut, where settlements might be made with safety, but west of the river there was no attempt at

permanent occupancy until several years later. The first division of lands on the west side was made in 1707, when the available tracts were subdivided into plots of ten acres each and were apportioned by lot to the male inhabitants of the age of twenty-one or more years, the whole number of whom at that time was seventy-three persons. In 1696, according to authenticated records, there were only thirty-two families living in Springfield west of the Connecticut, a territory which extended from the south line of Northampton to the north line of the province of Connecticut, and included the present site of Holyoke and the towns of West Springfield and Agawam.

No authority extant informs us when the lands comprising our city were first granted, or enlightens us on the important questions of pioneership and early settlement. On account of the troublesome conditions which existed throughout the first hundred years of Springfield's history it is safe to assume that there were no permanent white settlers within our present limits earlier than 1725. West Springfield was set off as a town in 1774, and the Third parish (otherwise known as the North parish, and also as "Ireland" parish) was an ecclesiastical division of the new town, so established in 1786.

Tradition also says that the region most frequently called "Ireland parish"—now Holyoke—was first settled soon after 1730, and that in 1745 only six families were living on its territory. One of these was Benjamin Ball, a descendant of Francis Ball, the latter a settler in Springfield in 1643. Another settler of about the same time was one Riley, a son of Ireland,who located in the south part of the parish, on the stream named for him "Riley brook," which name is preserved to the present day, while the stream itself near its mouth marks the boundary between Holyoke and West Springfield. Whence Riley came or when he departed no authority states, yet his settlement here stimulated similar action on the part of others of his nationality until in point of numbers the worthy sons of Erin outstripped all others and won for the locality the generally accepted name of Ireland parish. Capt. John Miller, a patriot of the early wars, is recalled as among the first settlers on what now is Northampton street.

"The Old Blackbird Tree"

One of the few surviving monarchs of the forest. This unique specimen stands about a mile southwest of the City Hall in Holyoke, near what is familiarly known as the Horace Brown place

In later years settlements increased with the development of the resources of the region, and about the period of the revolution we find such names as Capt. Joseph Morgan, Lieut. Charles Ball, Amos Allen, Capt. Joseph Day, Joel Day, Deacon Josiah Rogers, Titus Tuttle, Lucus Morgan and Jonathan Birchard among the more conspicuous figures in local history. To this number we may add the names of Joseph Rogers, Timothy Clough, Jonathan Clough, John Miller, Glover Street, Nathan Stephens, Peresh Hitchcock, Asahel Chapin, Jedediah Day, Caleb Humeston, Benjamin Basset, Joseph Ely, Austin Goodyear, all of whom were settled in the parish and engaged in agricultural and kindred pursuits previous to the beginning of the last century.

During the next twenty-five years the acquisition of new settlers and the succession of sons to the estates of their sires changed again the personnel of the parish inhabitants, and the year 1830 gives such additional names as John, Jason and Henry Ludington, Israel and William Perkins, Ephraim Barker, Warren and Edmund Banks, Elisha Winchell, Thomas Howard, Ichabod Howe, Hezekiah Griswold, Jesse Cushman, Nathan Morse, Luke Parsons, Elisha Ashley, David Bassett, Samuel Hadley, William Jarvis, William Atkins, Isaac Allen, James Meacham, John Felt, Justus Clapp, Caleb Humeston, Aaron Moore, Miles Dickerman, Harvey Wright, Lyman Goodyear, Noah Wolcott, Job Bryant, Joseph Morgan, Abraham Ives, Plin Jones, Eleazer Day, Sylvester Munger, Ebenezer Alvord, Joseph Ely, John Chapin, Warren Chapin, John D. Ely, Joshua Allen, Nathan Parks, Joel Newell, Amasa Ainsworth, John Frink, Henry Robertson, Ebenezer and Titus Ingraham, Herman and Michael Fuller (colored men and tradesmen), Moses and Pelatiah Ely, Alexander Day, Hiram and Ebenezer Jones, Roger Williams, Frederick Day, Horace Wilcox, Luke and Elijah Hitchcock, John Dunham, Seth Bliss, Amos Allen, Day Powers, Charles Ball, Joshua, John, Frederick and George Street, Cyrus Frink, Henry Tuttle, Horace Atkins, Roswell Morgan, Jeremiah Sperry, Hervey Chapin, Hiram Morgan, Caleb Street, Caleb Hill, Orrin Street, Justus Eaton, Eli Robinson, Francis Ball, Bishop Allen, Rev. Lucy A. Milton, has recently resigned.

Stephen Hayes, Russel, Job and Willard Ely, Clark Pomeroy, Enoch Ely, Eliakim Danks, David Wood, William Boyd, Henry Archibald and others whose names are lost with the lapse of years. These were the factors in the history of Ireland parish during the quarter of a century immediately preceding the incorporation of the town of Holyoke, and some of their descendants are now numbered among the constantly changing and ever increasing population of our modern industrial city.

Throughout all years preceding the period of which we write these worthy settlers and their ancestors were engaged in the peaceful arts of agriculture, and some of them, more venturesome than their fellows, had attempted some manufactures. In 1825 the parish could boast a saw mill, a grist mill, a tannery, a cement works, a cloth mill, a tavern (Chester Crafts, proprietor), and a distillery. At the same time two ferries were maintained across the Connecticut, one in the south part and the other farther up the river, just below the lower falls. Having ready access to the east side the entire people of the parish viewed with considerable interest the diversion of the waters of Chicopee river for manufacturing purposes and also took due cognizance of the industries then recently established on the east bank of the Connecticut near the ferry landing; but in the course of another score of years they were both surprised and gratified to witness the construction of a dam across the river and the diversion of the waters for manufacturing purposes on their own side, although the wiseacres declared that the feat was impossible of accomplishment, just as the Springfield prophets derided the early attempts to build a bridge across the "Great Stream." In each case the doubters were doomed to ultimate disappointment, and when the dam and canals at last were completed the parish took upon itself new life and energy, and soon thereafter acquired a new and more substantial municipal character.

With the beginning of the work of the construction of the dam and canals, a new, or rather a rapid growth of an old, element of population developed in the North parish. Day workmen were in demand and to supply the want large numbers of laborers, chiefly Irishmen, came to the locality and settled them-

selves in the vicinity of the works. This gave rise to distinguishing names for certain neighborhoods, hence we have the "Irish village," near the dam and canal sites, while the "Baptist village" was a name applied to the vicinity of the Baptist church, a locality now known as "Elmwood." In later years, a "French village" sprung into existence, but this was after the first mills were put in operation and the skilled operatives from the Canadas appeared in the young town.

TOWN ORGANIZATION AND CIVIL LIST

In the incorporation of the town of Holyoke the usual order in such proceedings appears to have been reversed. Generally when it was proposed to create a new town the subject was discussed in town meetings in the mother jurisdiction and the sentiment of the inhabitants was ascertained by vote; but in this instance the subject of a division of the territory of West Springfield is not mentioned in the town records, and if there was indeed any opposition to the proposed new town the clerk's books give us no information concerning it. The first mention of a new town in the West Springfield records is that of an April meeting in 1850, when the selectmen were authorized to sell the "Town pauper farm and the hospital at Holyoke at auction, if agreeable to the town of Holyoke." Later on a committee of West Springfield men was chosen to meet a similar body from the new jurisdiction and settle the affairs in which both towns were interested.

The incorporation of the Hadley Falls company, and the great work of constructing the dam across the river and the system of water power canals in the old North parish, led to the incorporation of the town of Holyoke, and accomplished that end in less than two years after the charter was granted to the company. Under the law the consent of the mother town was not pre-requisite to the new creation, and the necessity of a new civil division of the county, including the territory of the previously known Ireland parish, was too apparent to admit of opposition, hence the independent and progressive people had direct recourse to the legislature, with the result of the passage of "An act to establish the town of Holyoke," which was approved and became a law March 14, 1850.

The framers of the act, with commendable public spiritedness, named their new town Holyoke, and thus paid another tribute of respect to the memory of one of the most worthy pioneers of the Connecticut valley. Long before this the name had been given to one of the towering mountain peaks away to the northward of the new town, and in allusion to the mountain the

The Old Holyoke House—1867

name was afterward used to designate the now famous institution of learning.

The pioneer who first brought this honorable name to the valley country was Elizur Holyoke, a native of Tamworth, Warwickshire, England, who came to New England during the early years of the colony. He reached Springfield in 1640 and died there in 1676. He was chosen deputy to the general court six times; was ten terms selectman in Springfield; was town clerk

first in 1656 and held that office continuously from 1661 to his death in 1676. He was deeply interested in the welfare of the plantation and subsequent town, was one of the pillars of the First church of Christ in Springfield, a man whose walk in daily life had an influence for good among his townsmen. The story of the naming of Mount Holyoke in allusion to him is an oft-told tale of early times, while the mountain itself gives name to Mount Holyoke college, situated on its foot-hills. Deacon Holyoke married Mary, the daughter of William Pynchon, and to them were born eight children.

Population.—In 1840 West Springfield contained 3,626 inhabitants, and in 1850 the number was 2,979. Thus, assuming a uniform growth for the entire township, the mother town surrendered less than 647 of its stable population to the new jurisdiction. However, in 1850 Holyoke's population was 3,245, and since that time the increase in number of inhabitants has been constant, as may be seen by reference to the census reports, viz.: 1855, 4,639; 1860, 4,997; 1865, 5,648; 1870, 10,733; 1875, 16,260; 1880, 21,915; 1885, 27,895; 1890, 35,637; 1895, 40,322; 1900, 45,712.

Glancing over the census reports relating to towns and cities in New England, and comparing their growth with that of our industrial city, the latter is found in the very front rank; and this remarkable prosperity, growth and development is chiefly due to one first great cause—the construction and operation of the water power system inaugurated by the Hadley Falls company and enlarged and made more perfect by the successor corporation, the Holyoke Water Power company. In a public address delivered by Edward Everett about the time of the completion of the first dam, that distinguished statesman and orator declared that Holyoke would some time have a population of 50,000 inhabitants; but it is doubtful if the orator himself then believed that population would be attained in the first decade of the twentieth century.

In accordance with the provisions of the act of incorporation Hervey Chapin, justice of the peace, issued his warrant, directed to Chester Crafts, "a principal inhabitant of the town," requir-

ing him to notify the qualified voters to assemble in town meeting in the school house on Chestnut street, on March 22, 1850, and proceed with the election of town officers. This was done, and on the day mentioned, under the moderatorship of C. B. Rising, the first town officers of Holyoke were duly elected.

The succession of principal town officers, selectmen, assessors, town clerks and treasurers, from 1850 to 1873 is as follows:

Selectmen: 1850, Fayette Smith, Alexander Day, Hervey Chapin.

1851—Alexander Day, Joseph M. Morrison, Amos Allen.

1852—Hervey Chapin, Daniel Bowdoin, Albert Graves.

1853—Austin Ely, Chester Crafts, Edwin H. Ball.

1854—Edwin H. Ball, Hervey Chapin, Asa O. Colby.

1855—Edwin H. Ball, Nathaniel W. Quinn, George C. Lyon.

1856—Russell Gilmore, Edmund Whitaker, Alfred White.

1857—Edmund Whitaker, Chester Crafts, Henry Wheeler.

1858—Edmund Whitaker, Edwin H. Ball, Asa O. Colby.

1859—Edwin H. Ball, Joel Russell, Daniel E. Kingsley.

1860—Joel Russell, Austin Ely, Sheldon H. Walker.

1861—Joel Russell, Sheldon H. Walker, A. C. Slater.

1862-63—William B. C. Pearsons, Rufus Mosher, Chester Crafts.

1864—Edmund Whitaker, Edwin H. Ball, Robert S. Howard.

1865—Porter Underwood, Edwin H. Ball, John C. Newton.

1866—Edwin Chase, Chester Crafts, Joel Russell (declined).

1867—Chester Crafts, Edwin Chase, Timothy Merrick.

1868—George C. Ewing, Chester Crafts, Allen Higginbottom.

1869—Allen Higginbottom, William A. Judd, Charles A. Corser.

1870—William A. Judd, Charles A. Corser, Allen Higginbottom.

1871—Allen Higginbottom, William A. Judd, Rufus Mosher.

1872—William A. Judd, John Delaney, Rufus Mosher.

1873—William A. Judd, John O'Donnell, Ezra H. Flagg.

Assessors.—1850—Nathaniel Thorp, George C. Ewing, Abner Miller.

1851—Jared P. Searles, Willard Ely, Lewis P. Bosworth.

1852—Ballard Pettingill, Solomon B. Davis, Henry Chapin.

1853—Sydenham Street, Cryus Frink, Samuel Flynn.

1854—Sydenham Street, Timothy O. Jones, William Melcher.

1855—Isaac Osgood, Russell Gilmore, J. E. Morrill.

1856-7—William B. C. Pearsons, Joseph Murray, Ezra H. Flagg.

1858—William B. C. Pearsons, Samuel B. Allyn, Joseph Murray.

1859—William B. C. Pearsons, Samuel B. Allyn, Pelatiah Ely.

1860-1—Ezra H. Flagg, William B. C. Pearsons, Hervey Chapin.

1862—Joseph Murray, Daniel E. Kingsbury, C. B. Wolcott.

1863—Joseph Murray, C. B. Wolcott, Ezra H. Flagg.

1864—Ezra H. Flagg, Henry J. Chapin, Henry A. Pratt.

1865—Joseph Murray, C. B. Wolcott, J. E. Morrill.

1866—Joseph Murray, J. E. Morrill, Edwin Perkins.

1867—Joseph Murray, J. T. Prescott, Hervey Chapin.

1868—Joseph Murray, D. E. Kingsbury, Hervey Chapin.

1869—D. E. Kingsbury, Geo. Thayer, Hervey Chapin.

1870—S. A. Hooker, Amos Andrews, Joseph Murray.

1871—Amos Andrews, D. E. Kingsbury, H. A. Pratt.

1872—Amos Andrews, P. B. Flanders, James Doyle.

1873—Amos Andrews, Joseph Murray, James Doyle.

Town Clerks.[1]—Lucien Morton, 1850; John M. Cavis, 1851-2; Gustavus Snow, 1852-65; Ezra H. Flagg, 1866-67; William S. Loomis, 1868-73.

Treasurers.—John M. Chapin, 1850; Henry S. Babbitt, 1851-52; office consolidated with town clerk from 1853 to 1868; Robert B. Johnson, 1868-71; Charles W. Ranlet, 1872-73.

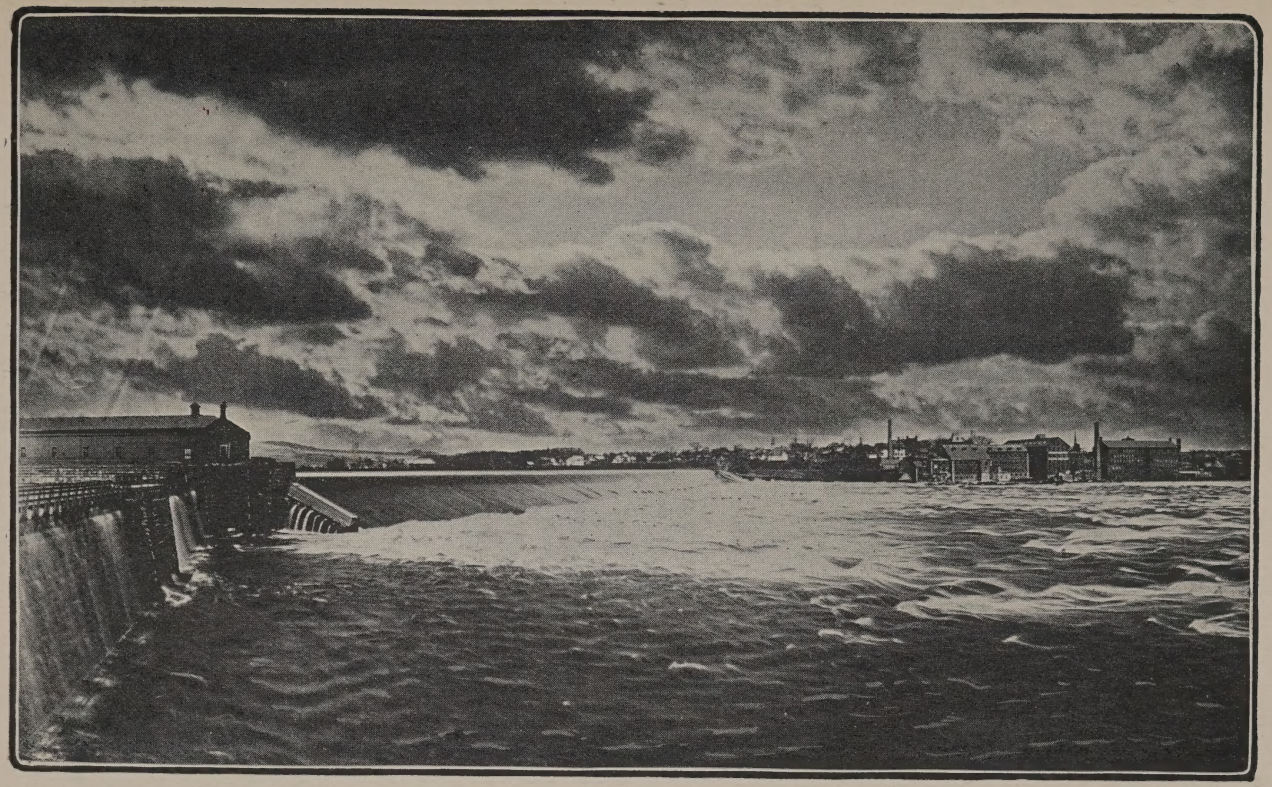
[1]From 1850 to 1853 the offices of town clerk and treasurer were separate; then were consolidated from 1853 to 1868, when again an incumbent was elected to each.

THE CITY OF HOLYOKE

In 1847, three years previous to the incorporation of the town, the locality in which the Hadley Falls company was just beginning operations contained a grist mill, a cotton or cloth mill, one small shop and fourteen dwelling houses. The inhabitants here, like those owning the more elevated lands to the westward of the river, were chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits, although on the higher areas, especially along the old "county road," a little country village had gradually come into existence; and the locality about that time could boast a tavern of modest appearance, but of wide fame, two stores, a sash, blind and planing mill, two physicians, a shoemaker, tailor, wheelwright, painter, blacksmith, a school house and two churches—Congregational and Baptist.

A few years later, after the failure of the first dam and the construction of its more substantial successor, business interests began to gravitate toward the lands of the water power company, and the new village soon gained precedence over and superseded the old. From that time Holyoke dates its most progressive history. The constant increase in population and commerce led to the establishment of new institutions, and called for a form of government not attainable under the township character. Therefore, in 1873, when the town's population was increased to nearly 14,000 inhabitants, recourse again was had to the legislature with result in the passage of "An act to establish the city of Holyoke." The act was approved by the governor April 7, 1873, and was accepted by the citizens May 29, 1873, by a vote of 377 yeas to 17 nays.

Under the charter the administration of the fiscal, prudential and municipal affairs of the city became vested in a mayor, a council of seven members, called the board of aldermen, and a council of twenty-one members, called the common council, all to be elected by the people. The charter also made provision for the election of a city clerk and city treasurer, and for the election by the qualified voters, or the appointment by the mayor or city council, of such other officers as the proper administration of municipal affairs from time to time should require.



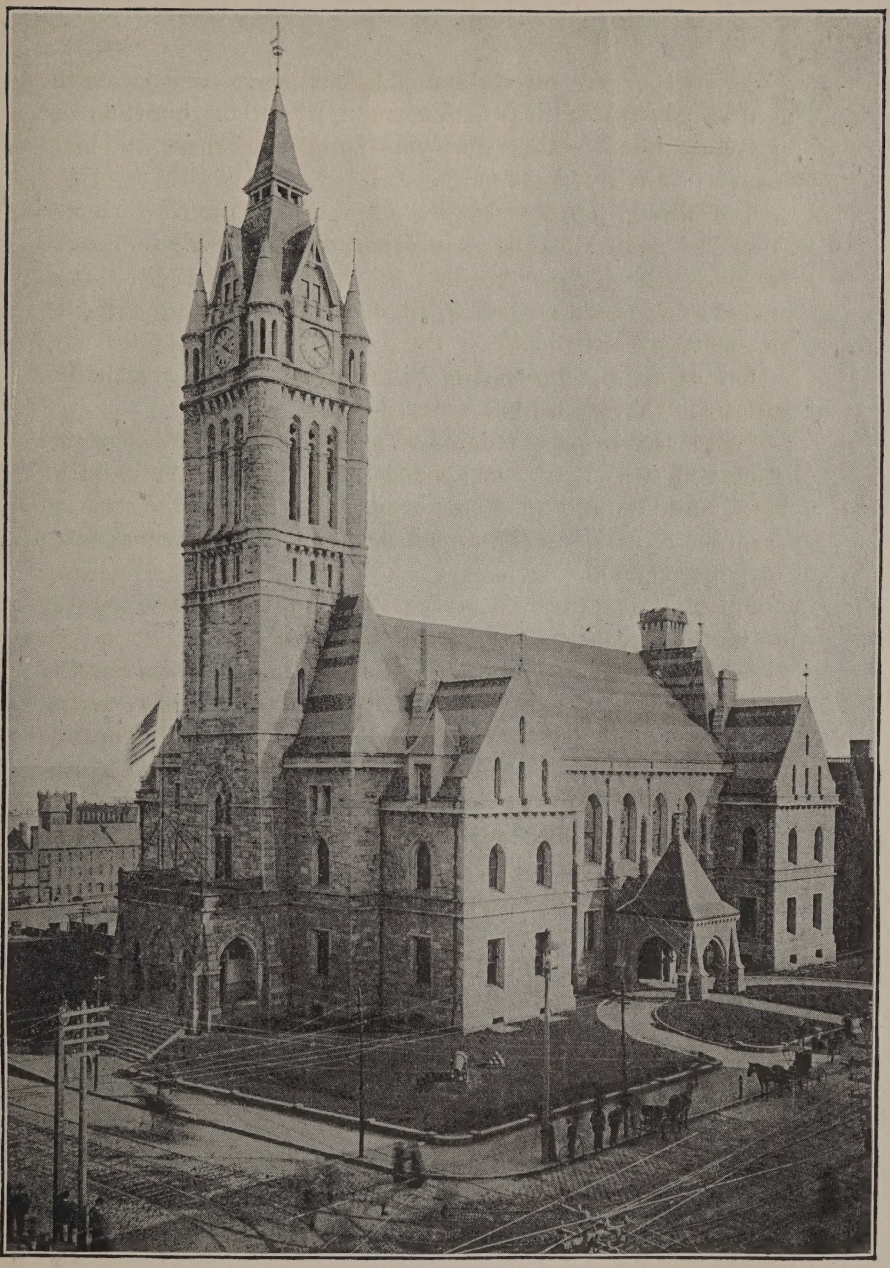
The old "Holyoke Dam" across Connecticut River

The Carew Mills and South Hadley are seen on the right, on the Hampshire county side

The original city charter was sufficient for its time, but with the rapid increase in population and commercial interests of later years, special, amendatory and supplemental acts became necessary. In 1896 the charter was radically revised, and by the act of May 27 of that year the administrative affairs, except those of the public schools, were vested in an executive department consisting of a mayor and a board of aldermen, the latter composed of fourteen members elected at large, and one member from each ward in the city. Under the provisions of this act and the ordinances adopted by the municipal legislative body, the affairs of the city are now administered.

Within the corporate limits established in 1873, and since continued, the city of Holyoke has an area of 16.35 square miles of land; river front, 7.06 miles; greatest north and south measurement, 4.75 miles; greatest east and west measurement, 5.12 miles; county roads, 35.25 miles; accepted streets, 41.57 miles; unaccepted streets, 16.01 miles; paved streets, 6.50 miles; sewers, 32.37 miles; streets watered, 42.21 miles; fire alarm wires, 72 miles; street lights, 289; park areas, 23.71 acres; dwelling houses, 4,571; number of voters, 6,864; number of polls, 11,653; population, June 1, 1900 (United States census), 45,712; population, May 1, 1900 (school census), 47,612; public schools enrollment (day), 6,287; public schools enrollment (night), 905; parochial schools enrollment, 3,655; school houses, 29; churches, 20; engine houses, 7; fire alarm boxes, 112; valuation, May 1, 1901, $39,951,930 (real estate, $29,658,610; personal, $10,293,320). The erection of a town hall was suggested in 1870, four years before the city government was organized, but the structure in fact was built by the city; hence the name city hall. The building is a splendid specimen of modern architecture, representing several years of work and an expenditure of nearly $300,000. It was finally completed under the supervision of a specially constituted building committee, chosen in 1874, and composed of William Grover, Timothy Merrick, John C. Newton, James Doyle and Charles W. Ranlet.

The special acts relating to the town and city may be enumerated as follows:



City Hall, Holyoke

Act of 1869, approved June 12—"An act to incorporate the Holyoke and Westfield railroad company," authorizing the town and certain manufacturing corporations to purchase and hold stock in such railroad company.

Act of 1870, approved April 22—"An act in relation to a public library in Holyoke"; incorporating the Holyoke public library.

Act of 1871, approved April 8—"An act to establish the police court of Holyoke."

Act of 1872, approved March 7—"An act to supply the town of Holyoke with pure water."

Act of 1874, approved May 7—"An act to authorize the city of Holyoke to issue bonds for the purpose of funding its debts;" authorizing an issue of bonds for $300,000, the creation of a sinking fund and the appointment of three commissioners of the sinking fund.

Act of 1881, approved March 30—"An act to establish the office of clerk of the police court of Holyoke."

Act of 1882, approved April 12—"An act to authorize the city of Holyoke to construct a common sewer and provide for the payment of the cost of the same."

Act of 1886, approved April 29—"An act to exempt the city of Holyoke from the provisions of Sec. 1, Chap. 312 of the Acts of 1885, relative to the limit of municipal debt and the rate of taxation in cities."

Act of 1887, approved May 25—"An act authorizing the city of Holyoke to make a new division of the wards of said city."

Act of 1888, approved May 10—"An act to provide for rebuilding the bridge across the Connecticut river between Holyoke and South Hadley;" additional act April 5, 1889.

Act of 1888, approved May 22—"An act to fix the tenure of office of the members of the police force of the city of Holyoke."

Act of 1889, approved May 21—"An act to authorize the county commissioners of the county of Hampden to lay out a highway and construct a bridge across the Connecticut river between Holyoke and Chicopee."

Act of 1890, approved March 28—"An act to authorize the city of Holyoke to issue notes, bonds or scrip for the purpose of

refunding certain bonds, and to sell certain railroad stock now owned by it, the proceeds of which are to pay said notes, bonds or scrip."

Act of 1890, approved May 23—"An act authorizing the city council to establish a fire department."

Act of 1891, approved April 17—"An act to authorize the city of Holyoke to incur indebtedness beyond the limit fixed by law;" additional act passed April 20 and June 30, 1894, April 6, 1895, and Feb. 18, 1897.

Act of 1896, approved May 19—"An act to authorize the city of Holyoke to increase its water supply."

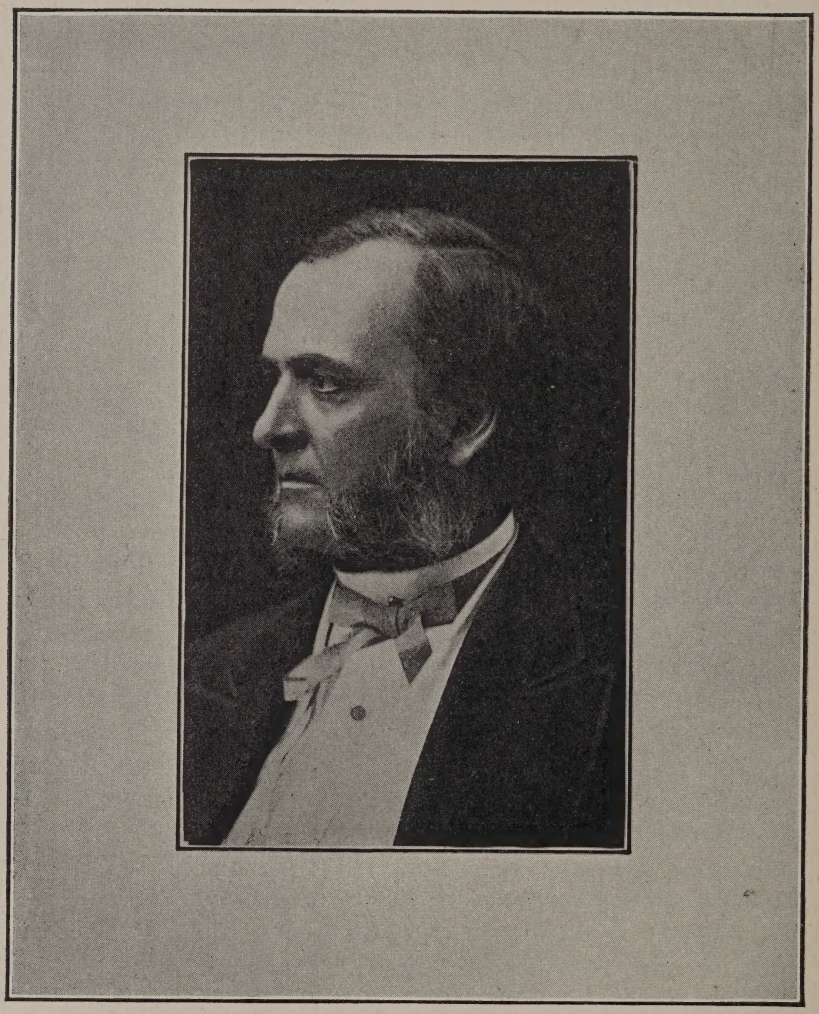
The charter act of 1873 was passed by the house March 28, by the senate April 4, and on April 7 received the executive approval. The officers elected at the town meeting in that year were continued in their respective offices until the organization of the city government in January, 1874. The first charter election was held in December, 1873.

MUNICIPAL CIVIL LIST.

Mayors.—William B. C. Pearsons, 1874-76; Roswell P. Crafts, 1877; William Whiting, 1878-79; William Ruddy, 1880; F. P. Goodall, 1881; Roswell P. Crafts, 1882-83; James E. Delaney, 1884-85; James J. O'Connor, 1886-87; James E. Delaney, 1888; Jeremiah F. Sullivan, 1889-90; Michael J. Griffin, 1891; Jeremiah F. Sullivan, 1892; Dennie L. Farr, 1893; Marciene H. Whitcomb, 1894; Henry A. Chase, 1895; James J. Curran, 1896; George H. Smith, 1897; Michael Connors, 1898; Arthur B. Chapin, 1899-1902.

City Clerks.—E. A. Ramsay, 1874-76; James E. Delaney, 1877-82; Michael J. Griffin, 1883-90; Thomas D. O'Brien, 1891-94; Edward A. Kane, 1895—April 24, 1901; John F. Sheehan, April 30, 1901-1902 (now in office).

City Treasurers.—Charles W. Ranlet, 1874; William Whiting, 1875-76; Charles W. Ranlet, 1877-78; James R. Howes, 1879; Charles W. Ranlet, 1880-84; E. L. Munn, 1885; Oscar Ely, 1886; Edwin L. Munn, 1887-89; Dennie L. Farr, 1890-92; Pierre Bonvouloir, 1893-1902 (now in office).



William B. C. Pearsons

Aldermen.[1]—1874, William Grover, Henry A. Chase, Aug. Stursburg, John H. Wright, John O'Donnell, G. W. Prentiss, J. F. Allyn.

1875—William Grover, Henry A. Chase, Matthew Walsh, John H. Wright, Edward O'Connor, G. W. Prentiss, J. F. Allyn.

1876—William Ruddy, C. B. Harris, H. Springborn, S. J. Donoghue, Maurice Lynch, C. H. Heywood, J. F. Allyn.

1877—M. J. Tehan, G. H. Smith, A. Stursberg, S. J. Donoghue, D. H. Donoghue, C. H. Heywood, G. P. Ellison.

1878—Thomas S. Grover, C. B. Harris (died March 11 and G. H. Smith chosen), A. Stursberg (resigned and James Stafford chosen), Chas. D. Colson, D. E. Sullivan, G. P. Ellison.

1879—William Ruddy, Fordyce R. Norton, Henry Winkler, Charles D. Colson, D. E. Sullivan, William Skinner, William S. Perkins.

1880—John D. Walsh, Fordyce R. Norton, Henry Winkler, James Casey, John O'Donnell, Charles A. Corser, William S. Perkins.

1881—Casper Ranger, Fred Morrison, P. J. Sheridan, Thomas Dillon, D. J. Landers, E. A. Whiting, R. Winchester.

1882—Casper Ranger, Isaac Tirrell, C. R. Heubler, Thomas Dillon, John O'Donnell, William A. Chase, W. T. Dean.

1883—Casper Ranger, Isaac Tirrell, John T. Lynch, Thomas Dillon, John O'Donnell, Charles A. Corser, W. T. Dean.

1884—James Greeley, Isaac Tirrell, John T. Lynch, John Dillon, E. O'Connor, Elias P. Ford, C. C. Hastings.

1885—William Reardon, Thomas H. Sears, J. K. McCarthy, John J. Prew, R. P. Donoghue, Eli J. Brocket, John E. Clark.

1886—J. J. Sheridan, Francis J. Curley, James J. Curran, John J. Prew, R. P. Donoghue, William E. Syms, John E. Clark.

1887—William H. Hess, James W. Toole, Henry Winkler, John Dillon, James F. Cleary, William E. Syms, John Hildreth.

1888—L. F. Hayward, jr., J. W. Toole, Henry Winkler (resigned June 27 and M. Manning chosen), John Dillon, H. E. McElwain, C. L. Newcomb, John Hildreth.

[1]Aldermen are mentioned in the order of ward numbers.

1889—John C. Sullivan, William B. Buckley, George Spamer, Thomas J. Carmody, Richard Shea, Dennie L. Farr, E. L. Squier.

1890—M. P. Conway, J. Beauchemin, George Spamer, N. J. Baker, A. Higginbottom, C. D. Colson, E. L. Squier.

1891—M. P. Conway, T. J. Kennedy, Michael Connors, R. P. Donoghue, J. J. Callanan, J. P. Prescott, F. C. Steele.

1892—William Haney, Antoine Marcotte, Michael Connors, T. J. Dillon, J. J. Callanan, M. J. Laporte, R. B. Holmes.

1894—T. J. Lynch, Fred St. Martin, M. Connor, P. W. Shea, R. S. Burns, James A. Allyn, R. B. Holmes.

1895—Timothy J. Lynch, Fred St. Martin, R. H. Dietz, Thomas J. Lynch, Richard S. Burns, John Wall, George H. Lynds.

1896—Timothy J. Lynch, Fred Gervais, Adam Leining, Patrick W. Shea, Jeremiah J. Linehan, Elbert Goss, Frank Feather.

1897—At large for two years, Henry A. Collings, Patrick F. Donoghue, Arthur M. French, Adam Leining, Hugh McLean, Daniel Proulx, Homer J. Stratton; for one year, Saline J. Benoit, Archibald Ferguson, sr., Morris Hicks, William J. Ryan, George A. Savoy, James H. Staples, Peter J. Westphal; by wards, Timothy J. Lynch, Fred Gervais, Frank Feather, Patrick J. O'Connor, Jeremiah J. Linehan, Elbert Goss, Charles P. Randall.

1898—At large for two years, Joseph Beaudry, jr., William D. Bunnell, Edward L. Cassidy, J. Joseph Doran, Archibald Ferguson, sr., William J. Ryan, Peter J. Westphal; for one year, Henry A. Collings, Patrick F. Donoghue, Arthur M. French, Adam Leining, Hugh McLean, Daniel Proulx, Homer J. Stratton; by wards, Timothy J. Lynch, Samuel Migneault, Frank Feather, James S. Lacey, Michael J. Doyle, Elbert J. Goss, James H. Wylie, jr.

1899—At large for two years, P. F. Douoghue, Arthur M. French, Adam Leining, Joseph A. Morin, William McCorkindale, Hugh McLean, Edwin L. Squier; for one year, Joseph A. Beaudry, jr., William D. Bunnell, Edward L. Cassidy, J. Joseph Doran, Archibald Ferguson, sr., William J. Ryan, Peter J. West-

phal; by wards, T. J. Lynch, Samuel Migneault, Moritz E. Ruther, Joseph A. O'Donnell, Michael J. Doyle, William G. Beaudro, Frank B. Towne.

1900—At large for two years, J. Joseph Doran, Jeremiah J. Farrell, John K. Judd, Adelard M. Potvin, John Stalker, Frank C. Webber, Marciene H. Whitcomb; for one year, Patrick F. Donoghue, Arthur M. French, Adam Leining, Joseph A. Marin, William McCorkindale, Hugh McLean, Edwin L. Squier; by wards, John P. McTigue, Arthur R. Vincent, Herbert C. Clark, Florence Donoghue, Michael J. Doyle, William G. Beaudro, Frank B. Towne.

1901—At large for two years, William G. Beaudro, Edward F. Dowd, William O. Ducharme, John J. Finn, Charles S. Hemingway, James M. Kennedy, William McCorkindale; for one year, J. Joseph Doran, Jeremiah J. Farrell, John K. Judd, Adelard M. Potvin, John Stalker, Frank C. Webber, Marciene H. Whitcomb; by wards, Dennis O'Leary, Eugene Laramay, John R. Allen, Florence Donoghue, Michael J. Doyle, John C. Carlin, Frank B. Towne.

1902—At large for two years, George Barnett, Jeremiah J. Farrell, George P. Noonan, Adelard M. Potvin, John D. Ryan, John Stalker, Frank C. Webber; for one year, William G. Beaudro, Edward F. Dowd, William O. Ducharme, John J. Finn, Charles S. Hemingway, James M. Kennedy, William McCorkindale; by wards, Dennis O'Leary, Eugene Laramay, Leon W. Bliss, Alexander O'Brien, Eugene F. Kane, John G. Reardon, Thomas W. Holley.

Common Councilmen.—1874, ward 1, Curtis Moore, James Ruddy, William Ruddy; ward 2, G. W. Burditt, C. B. Harris, S. F. Stebbins; ward 3, Martin Lawler, F. Kreimendahl, Matthew Walsh; ward 4, W. D. Higgins, H. G. Pierce, A. C. Pratt; ward 5, Maurice Lynch, John O'Connell, J. A. Sullivan; ward 6, John Delaney, C. H. Heywood, Timothy Merrick; ward 7, R. M. Fairfield, H. A. Pratt, Reuben Winchester.

1875—Ward 1, John Moore, James Ruddy, William Ruddy; ward 2, C. B. Harris, Fred Morrison, G. H. Smith; ward 3, Richard Gilday, F. Kreimendahl, Henry Winkler; ward 4, S. J. Don-

oghue, Peter McKeon, E. A. Newton; ward 5, B. F. Bigelow, D. H. Donoghue, J. R. Donoghue; ward 6, John Delaney, C. H. Heywood, Timothy Merrick; ward 7, Horace Brown, Chester Strong, Reuben Winchester.

1876—Ward 1, James Barnes, John Moore, A. B. Tower; ward 2, Chalmers Chapin, G. H. Smith, E. Whitaker; ward 3, Joseph Mellor, J. N. Thayer, J. S. Webber; ward 4, C. D. Colson, Daniel Ford, V. J. O'Connell; ward 5, B. F. Bigelow, Michael Downing, D. M. Manning; ward 6, A. D. Barker, J. E. Delaney, J. H. Newton; ward 7, H. C. Ewing, S. T. Lyman, Reuben Winchester.

1877—Ward 1, John Ford, Richard Patte, C. O. Warner; ward 2, Chalmers Chapin, F. P. Goodall, Isaac Tirrell; ward 3, A. G. Rideout, James Stafford, J. N. Thayer; ward 4, C. D. Colson, Michael Lynch, M. M. Mitivier; ward 5, Michael Cleary, Stephen Maloney, D. E. Sullivan; ward 6, E. W. Chapin, E. A. Ramsey, Porter Underwood; ward 7, John Merrick, Edwin Perkins, John Street.

1878—Ward 1, T. L. Keough, J. W. Moore, W. E. Syms; ward 2, F. P. Goodall, F. Morrison, Isaac Tirrell; ward 3, A. G. Rideout, James Stafford, E. F. Sullivan; ward 4, James P. Casey, T. J. Ryan, Didace Saint-Marie; ward 5, Stephen Maloney, E. O'Connor, Thomas Pendergast; ward 6, Henry C. Cady, J. S. McElwain, Levi Perkins; ward 7, John Merrick, Edwin Perkins, John Street.

1879—Ward 1, G. C. Ainslie, James Greeley, John D. Walsh; ward 2, John E. Bronson, John B. Hart, Franklin P. Goodall; ward 3, John L. Martin, P. J. Sheridan, M. J. Ryan; ward 4, Victor Guyott, Peter McKeon, T. J. Ryan; ward 5, Thomas Dillon, Michael Downing, John O'Donnell; ward 6, H. C. Cady, J. S. McElwain, Levi Perkins; ward 7, Berijah H. Kagwin, Origen H. Merrick, Marden W. Prentiss.

1880—Ward 1, John Ford, James Greeley, Casper Ranger; ward 2, John E. Bronson, John B. Hart, George W. Maher; ward 3, John L. Martin, Patrick J. Sheridan, John McDonald; ward 4, Pierre Bonvouloir, Cornelius D. Geran, Timothy J. Ryan; ward 5, Michael Cleary, Michael Downing, Timothy Haley; ward 6,

Charles B. Davis, Hervey K. Hawes, Edwin A. Whiting; ward 7, Berijah H. Kagwin, Origen H. Merrick, John B. Munn.

1881—Ward 1, Michael Collins, James Greeley, Samuel S. Chapman; ward 2, Royal C. Dickinson, Sumner T. Miller, Dwight O. Judd; ward 3, Herbert Hicks, Lyman F. Thorpe, Charles R. Heubler; ward 4, George Hart, Cornelius D. Geran, Dennis E. Herbert; ward 5, James S. Lee, John F. Shea, Thomas Pendergast; ward 6, Amos Andrews, Hervey K. Hawes, Henry H. Smith; ward 7, Charles C. Hastings, Lyman B. Moore, John B. Munn.

1882—Ward 1, William Brennan, James Spillane, William H. Jess; ward 2, E. R. Pierce, Joseph Beauchemin, George W. Richards; ward 3, S. K. McCarthy, D. Driscoll, W. E. Keefe; ward 4, Dennis E. Herbert, P. J. O'Connor, J. J. Prew; ward 5, Maurice Lynch, Thomas Pendergast, Michael O'Keefe; ward 6, Amos Andrews, H. H. Smith, Joseph A. Snell; ward 7, C. C. Hastings, L. L. Hooker, A. N. Ricker.

1883—Ward 1, William H. Jess, John M. Sheridan, M. C. Browne; ward 2, Pierre Benoit, George W. Richards, C. O. Warner; ward 3, J. K. McCarthy, D. W. Driscoll, Peter J. Westphal; ward 4, D. E. Herbert, Frank S. Lynch, J. J. Prew; ward 5, P. J. Landers, John O'Connell, William Sullivan; ward 6, Joseph A. Snell, C. P. Lyman, E. P. Ford; ward 7, C. C. Hastings, D. H. Ives, A. N. Ricker.

1884—Ward 1, John Moore, M. F. Sullivan, W. A. Casey; ward 2, George W. Richards, Didace Sainte-Marie, Thomas H. Sears; ward 3, John Lowcock, John Jack, Blaise Borlen; ward 4, William Sullivan (died and succeeded by Matthew Doherty), Thomas O'Donnell, Amede F. Gingras; ward 5, R. P. Donoghue, Thomas J. Carmody, Michael Manning; ward 6, Charles P. Lyman, Eli L. Brockett, John J. Reardon; ward 7, Frank L. Buck, Robert T. Prentiss, Samuel M. Gilmore.

1885—Ward 1, John J. Sheridan, William J. Casey, J. G. McCarthy; ward 2, John C. Smith, George W. Richards, M. F. Doyle; ward 3, Blaise Borlen, Charles Brueck, James F. Canavan; ward 4, Thomas O'Donnell, P. F. Carmody, Matthew Doherty; ward 5, T. J. Carmody, James S. Lee, T. J. Fitzgerald;

ward 6, Andrew Buchanan, C. H. Whiting, John L. Burlingame; ward 7, John K. Judd, S. B. Allyn, S. M. Gilmore (resigned), George W. Doane.

1886—Ward 1, J. C. Keough, William A. Casey, J. G. McCarthy; ward 2, James H. Fitzsimmons, Edward Donahue, J. W. Toole; ward 3, Bruno Ezold, J. T. Cunningham, Peter J. Westphal; ward 4, J. H. Sullivan; M. F. Manning, Matthew Doherty; ward 5, J. F. Cleary, J. J. Casey, T. F. Greaney; ward 6, Andrew Buchanan, Charles H. Whiting, Charles L. Newcomb; ward 7, John K. Judd, George W. Doane, Aruthur M. Cain.

1887—Ward 1, J. C. Keough, D. J. Sullivan, B. J. Lynch; ward 2, Edward Donahue, T. J. Gibson, Nazaire Beliveau; ward 3, J. F. Canavan, John P. Hanley, Charles W. Bleumer; ward 4, Maurice Sullivan, Thomas Connor, Louis S. Paquette; ward 5, J. J. Casey, M. J. Lavelle, John Dillon; ward 6, Charles L. Newcomb, Henry E. McElwain, J. Sanford Webber; ward 7, A. M. Cain, G. L. Thorpe, Richard C. Kilduff.

1888—Ward 1, D. J. Sullivan, J. J. Keough, John Blasius; ward 2, T. J. Gibson, W. P. Buckley, Nazaire Beliveau; ward 3, J. F. Canavan, J. P. Hanley, Clyde C. Kelly; ward 4, John B. Laroche, M. J. Lavelle, Dennis Herbert; ward 5, Thomas Connor, Dennie L. Farr, Justin D. Perkins; ward 6, Charles L. Allyn, Lucius Ely, Frank A. Rivers; ward 7, George L. Thorpe, John Longway, jr., George V. Osgood.

1889—Ward 1, J. J. Keough, J. A. Peltier, T. H. Breen; ward 2, J. A. Murray, F. St. Martin, Thomas J. Kennedy; ward 3, J. F. Canavan, Onesime Viens, John J. Taylor; ward 4, P. A. Brennan, Napoleon Aubertin, Eugene Shea; ward 5, Thomas Connor, J. J. Callanan, J. W. Doran; ward 6, Lucius Ely, C. L. Allyn, James L. Davis; ward 7, Frederick C. Steele, Roland T. Oakes, George V. Osgood.

1890—Ward 1, William Brockway, Joseph A. Peltier, M. J. Sullivan; ward 2, T. J. Kennedy, J. A. Murray, C. O'Leary; ward 3, Herman Heinritz, John J. Taylor, Onesime Viens; ward 4, Patrick Brennan, John J. Prentiss, Eugene Shea; ward 5, Joseph Bardwell, Thomas Connor, Charles McCollister; ward 6, Lucius Ely, Stephen E. Gifford, Medric J. Laporte; ward 7, Roland T. Oakes, George T. Osgood, Frederick C. Steele.

1891—Ward 1, William Brockway, John H. Ryan, M. J. Sullivan; ward 2, John Black, A. B. C. De Launay, C. O'Leary; ward 3, Max C. Burkhardt, Ulrick Perrault, Albert C. Renner; ward 4, Napoleon Aubertin, T. J. Dillon, Eugene Shea; ward 5, John E. Burke, Richard A. Doran, D. J. O'Connell; ward 6, M. J. Laporte, Stephen E. Gifford, John B. Miller; ward 7, Lawrence J. Fortier, Charles McCollister, Henry D. Williams.

1892—Ward 1, Joseph Herbert, H. L. Mohan, John H. Ryan; ward 2, John Black, Joseph Blair, Fred Daze; ward 3, Max G. Burkhardt, Ulrick Perrault, Paul Schubach; ward 4, Frank O. Blanchette, Eugene Shea, Daniel P. Sullivan; ward 5, William L. Bishop, P. H. Brennan, William B. Miles; ward 6, Fred H. Gilpatrick, George E. Pickup, Frank C. Webber; ward 7, Lawrence H. Fortier, Charles H. McCollister, Henry D. Williams.

1893—Ward 1, Patrick Gear, Joseph Herbert, David H. Toole; ward 2, Joseph C. Blair, T. J. Kennedy, Cyril T. Labrecque; ward 3, Max Bretschneider, Victor S. Laplante, Ernest R. Tauscher; ward 4, Thomas Fitzgerald, P. J. O'Connor, D. P. Sullivan; ward 5, S. J. Benoit, J. L. Connor, J. J. Linehan; ward 6, F. H. Gilpatrick, John Naylor, Frank C. Webber; ward 7, Azro A. Coburn, Edwin B. Evans, Charles M. Hartzell.

1894—Ward 1, Octave Perrault, David H. Toole (resigned), John Daly, James Wall; ward 2, Fred Gervais, Fred A. Monat, P. H. Prendiville; ward 3, Max Bretschneider, Victor S. Laplante, Ernest R. Tauscher; ward 4, Frank Fitzgerald, Thomas Fitzgerald, Anthyme S. Menard; ward 5, S. J. Benoit, J. L. Connor, J. J. Linehan; ward 6, Elbert Goss, Frederick N. Ricker, Edward N. White; ward 7, Azro A. Coburn, Edwin B. Evans, Charles M. Hartzell.

1895—Ward 1, Edward D. Bunyan, P. F. Flynn, Dennis O'Leary; ward 2, Fred Gervais, Fred A. Monat, P. H. Prendiville; ward 3, J. H. Donoghue, Victor S. Laplante, W. J. Mahoney; ward 4, John J. McIntee, John P. Sullivan, John F. Sullivan; ward 5, Edmund H. Alger, John L. Connor, J. J. Linehan; ward 6, Edwin M. Chase, Elbert Goss, Caleb J. Humeston; ward 7, Conrad V. Hein, Charles P. Randall, William O. White.

1896—Ward 1, E. D. Bunyan, P. F. Flynn, Dennis O'Leary; ward 2, Joseph Beaudry, jr., Henry P. Cunningham, P. H. Prendiville; ward 3, J. H. Connor, William J. Mahoney, P. W. O'Rourke; ward 4, William J. Dillon, John J. McIntee, John J. Riley; ward 5, E. H. Alger, Edward J. Kenney. William O'Connell; ward 6, William D. Bunnell, Thomas H. Kearney, Henry Reed; ward 7, James Collingwood, Charles Randall, Homer J. Stratton.

Presidents of Board of Aldermen.—Michael Connors, 1893; Rufus B. Holmes, 1894; Henry A. Chase, 1895; Timothy J. Lynch, 1896; Arthur M. French, 1897; Hugh McLean, 1898; Arthur M. French, 1899-1900; Michael J. Doyle, 1901; James M. Kennedy, 1902.

Presidents of Common Council.—C. H. Heywood, 1874-75; G. H. Smith, 1876; C. D. Colson, 1877; F. P. Goodall, 1878; John O'Donnell, 1879; James Greeley, 1880; Hervey K. Hawes, 1881; Amos Andrews, 1882; C. O. Warner, 1883; Roger P. Donoghue, 1884; Thomas J. Carmody, 1885; John K. Judd, 1886; James C. Keough, 1887; Michael J. Lavelle, 1888; J. J. Callahan, 1889; Thomas Connor, 1890; Thomas J. Dillon, 1891; Henry D. Williams, 1892; John L. Connor, 1893-95; Patrick H. Prendiville, 1896.

City Auditors.—Edwin A. Ramsey, 1874-76; James E. Delaney, 1877-82; M. J. Griffin, 1883-90; Thomas D. O'Brien, 1891-95; Daniel W. Kenney, 1896-1902.

City Messengers.—J. H. Clifford, 1874-76; J. R. Howes, 1877-79; Charles M. Hackett, 1880-83; William T. Walsh, 1884-1902.

City Engineers.—Thomas W. Mann, 1874; E. T. Davis, 1875; Thomas W. Mann, 1876-80; A. B. Tower, 1881-83; Emory A. Ellsworth, 1884-85; T. W. Mann, 1886; Emory A. Ellsworth, 1887-89; Edward Walther, 1890-95; John J. Kirkpatrick, 1896-1898; James L. Tighe, 1899-1902.

City Solicitors.—Edward W. Chapin, 1874-75; H. K. Hawes, 1876-78; H. L. Sherman, 1879; S. W. Dougherty, 1880; William H. Brooks, 1881-83; Terrence B. O'Donnell, 1884-90; Christopher T. Callahan, 1891; William Hamilton, 1892-94;

Christopher T. Callahan, 1895; Arthur B. Chapin, 1896; William Hamilton, 1897; Christopher T. Callahan, 1898; Addison L. Greene, 1899; Nathan P. Avery, 1900-02.

City Physicians.—Dr. Charles O. Carpenter, 1874-76; Dr. G. W. Davis, 1877; Dr. A. F. Reed, 1878; Dr. J. J. O'Connor, 1879-84; Dr. D. F. Donoghue, 1885-91; Dr. Stephen A. Mahoney, 1892-94; Dr. John F. Buckley, 1895-97; Dr. John J. McCabe, 1898-99; Dr. George C. Robert, 1900-01; Dr. Joseph A. Marin, 1902.

Assessors of Taxes.—Amos Andrews, James E. Delaney, John E. Chase, 1874; Amos Andrews, James E. Delaney, Joseph Murray, 1875; Amos Andrews, J. F. Sullivan, Joseph Murray, 1876-79; Joseph Murray, J. F. Sullivan, J. H. Fraser, 1880-82; Joseph Murray, J. F. Sullivan, S. E. Gates, 1883-85; V. J. O'Donnell, J. F. Sullivan, S. E. Gates, 1886; Jeremiah F. Sullivan, Seymour E. Gates, Didace Sainte-Marie, 1887-88; James J. Dowd, S. E. Gates, Didace Sainte-Marie, 1889-91; Seymour E. Gates, James J. Dowd, John B. Laroche, 1892; S. E. Gates, James J. Dowd, Joseph St. Martin, 1893-94; James J. Dowd, Joseph St. Martin, Joseph J. Kelley, 1895-99; Dwight O. Judd, Joseph St. Martin, Joseph J. Kelley, 1900-02.

City Marshals.—(Called chief of police prior to 1894), William G. Ham, 1874; Almado Davis, 1875; William G. Ham, 1876; D. E. Kingsbury, 1877; William G. Ham, 1878-81; Sumner T. Miller, 1882-83; James Dougherty, 1884-85; Marciene H. Whitcomb, 1886-90; Sumner T. Miller, 1891; Valentine J. O'Donnell, 1892; S. T. Miller, 1893; George H. Twaddle, 1894-95; S. T. Miller, 1896; M. H. Whitcomb, 1897; Edward J. Gorman, 1898; J. Sidney Wright, 1899-1902.

Board of Public Works.—Michael F. Walsh, chairman, Oren D. Allen, Gilbert Potvin, jr., 1897-1902.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Previous to the incorporation of the Hadley Falls company the inhabitants of Ireland parish had no approved appliance for extinguishing fires in the town; and, indeed, there appears to have been little need for a fire organization of any kind in this

quiet agricultural region. However, with the beginning of operations by the Hadley Falls company the managers purchased a hand engine of the Button type, which soon acquired the local designation of "piano machine," and which also was a famous fire fighting apparatus in the "New City," as Holyoke originally was called.

In December, 1850, the town first took action in relation to the establishment of a fire department within the limits of school district No. 1, and at a regular meeting the old "First Fire district" was organized; and it was continued until 1872. In 1855 the town voted to pay the expenses of the fire department and appropriated the sum of $336 for maintenance. Small as this amount was, it was sufficient for the time and provided all that was then required to keep the three companies—Holyoke Engine Co. No. 1, Mechanics Engine Co. No. 2, and Mt. Tom Hose Co.—then comprising the department. In the latter part of 1857 and the early part of 1858 the board of engineers, in whom was vested the management of the department, approved the following named persons as firemen: Wallace Warner, Rufus Mosher, E. D. Shelley, Homer M. Crafts, Dominick Crosson, G. Marsh, S. C. Crouch, John R. Clifford, John R. Baker, J. C. Morrison, V. M. Dowd, Benjamin Roberts, E. W. Loomis, O. A. Henry, Isaac Cook, John Prouty, Mowry Prouty, H. K. Bean, John Doyle, A. O. Kenney, Robert Mitchell, B. F. McKinster, Lester Newell, E. Whitaker, C. H. Roby, T. C. Page, John C. Smith, Thomas H. Kelt, J. A. Cleveland.

In 1861 the first hook and ladder company was organized, and during the next ten years the department was materially increased, both in membership and in improved apparatus. In 1870 the annual report of Chief Crafts showed three engine houses and six companies, the latter being as follows: Reliance (No. 1) Steam Fire Engine Co., 25 members; Relief (No. 2) Steam Fire Engine Co., 25 members; Emerald Engine Co., 60 members; Mt. Tom Hose Co., 30 members; Mt. Holyoke Hose Co., 25 members; Hook and Ladder Co., 30 members. The company last mentioned soon afterward was given the name of Rescue H. & L. Co. No. 1.

Under section thirty of the original city charter the city council was authorized to establish a fire department and to make such regulations concerning its pay, conduct and government as from time to time should be deemed expedient; also, to establish fire limits in the city. At the same time the inhabitants of any previously existing fire district were authorized to dissolve the district and dispose of any or all of its apparatus. With the adoption of this act the history of the present fire department had its beginning. In 1874 there were six companies in the department, two steam engines, three hose companies and one hook and ladder truck.

The act of May 23, 1890, authorized the city council to establish, regulate and govern the department through the agency of a board of fire commissioners, to comprise three members appointed by the mayor. Thus was established the board by which the affairs of the fire department in a great measure was freed from the political influences which in the earlier years had seriously interfered with its efficiency. Under the recommendations of the commissioners the city has made liberal appropriations for the maintenance and extension of the department, and to-day the latter is regarded as one of the most thoroughly equipped and efficient bodies of its kind in the state.

The permanent force of the department consists of seventy-one men and eleven fully equipped companies. There are in use six steam fire engines, two chemical engines, six two-horse hose wagons, one combination chemical and hose wagon and three hook and ladder trucks. The annual expense of the department is about $70,000. The estimated value of the six engine houses in the city is more than $100,000.

The succession of chief engineers of the Holyoke fire department is as follows:

Chief Engineers.—R. G. Marsh, 1851; Daniel Bowdoin, 1852-53; Thomas H. Kelt, 1854; William B. C. Pearsons, 1855-1858; Jones S. Davis, 1859- 60; William B. C. Pearsons, 1861-62; William H. Dickinson, 1863-64; L. P. Bosworth, 1865-67; Roswell P. Crafts, 1868-69; O. S. Tuttle, 1870; Roswell P. Crafts, 1871; Richard Pattee, 1872-73; Benjamin F. Mullin, 1874-75;

John D. Hardy, 1876-78; Benjamin F. Mullin, 1879; E. P. Ford, 1880; B. F. Bigelow, 1881-84; John T. Lynch, 1885-1902.

Fire Commissioners.[1]—Richard Shea, Jeremiah J. Callanan, John Hildreth, Charles L. Newcomb, Val. Moquin, Roger P. Donoghue, John J. Sheridan, 1891-92; John J. Sullivan, vice Sheridan, 1893; Charles L. Newcomb, James J. Curran, Val. Moquin, appointed 1894; Charles L. Newcomb, Val. Moquin, Dennis J. Landers, 1895-96; Charles L. Newcomb, Dennis J. Landers, 1897; Charles L. Newcomb, M. J. Laporte, 1898-99; Charles L. Newcomb, Daniel Proulx, Frank L. Buck, 1900; Charles L. Newcomb, Daniel Proulx, Dennis J. Landers, 1901-1902.

CITY WATER WORKS

As a part of its gigantic scheme of development and public improvement during the three years immediately preceding the year 1850, the Hadley Falls company constructed a reservoir on the elevated land about seventy-five rods from the river and from that point laid main and distributing pipes through the business and residence portions of the "New City," which the company, through its enterprise, had brought into active existence. Water was pumped from the river into the reservoir and was carried thence throughout the little village by gravity pressure.

This was the only system of water supply for Holyoke from October 18, 1849, when the reservoir was first filled, until 1872, when the growth of the town necessitated the establishment of a larger and better plant. On March 7, 1872, the legislature passed "An act to supply the town of Holyoke with pure water," which act was accepted by the inhabitants March 21, 1872. The act authorized the town to establish its own water works and to regulate its use for fire, steam, domestic and other purposes, with authority to take and hold the entire waters of Ashley's and Wright's ponds. For the purpose of constructing the works the town was authorized to issue bonds to the amount of $250,000.

The act also created the board of water commissioners, to comprise the town treasurer, *ex-officio,* and six persons to be

[1]At first seven commissioners were appointed, but as the board was found to be unwieldy the number was reduced to three.

elected by the inhabitants. This act, however, was amended by the city charter, and it was then provided that the board should comprise three persons to be elected by the city council. In conformity with the provisions of this act the board of water commissioners has been continued to the present time.

In 1884 a supplemental act authorized the commissioners to increase the water supply by taking the waters of Whiting Street brook; and in 1896 the legislature authorized the board to utilize for the same purpose the waters of Tucker and Manhan brooks in the town of Southampton.

The work of construction on the original plant was begun in 1872 and was finished in 1873, but the work of extension of the system has been carried forward year after year to the present time. One of the annual reports of the board of commissioners, in referring to the supply system, says: "Source of supply—two contiguous natural lakes, three and one-half miles from the city, two mountain streams and storage reservoir, and the southwest branch of Manhan river; intake reservoir at Southampton."

The net cost of the water supply system to date aggregates nearly $1,250,000. The city's bonded indebtedness on account of the works is $300,000. The works produce an annual income of about $85,000, and the surplus over the expense of maintenance is chiefly used for extension purposes. The total length of distribution pipes is over eighty-one miles; number of public hydrants in use, 524; estimated average daily consumption of water, 4,750,000 gallons.

The personnel of the board of water commissioners from 1872 is as follows:

Water Commissioners.—William B. C. Pearsons, March 21, 1872-February 2, 1874; John Delaney, March 21, 1872-February 2, 1874; John E. Chase, March 21, 1872-resigned March, 1873; Dennis Higgins, March 21, 1872-February 2, 1874; Joel Russell, March 21, 1872-February 2, 1874; Joseph P. Buckland, March 21, 1872-February 2, 1874; L. P. Bosworth, March 18, 1873-February 2, 1874; C. W. Ranlet, *ex-officio,* town treasurer. (The foregoing were elected by the town). Joseph P. Buckland, Den-

nis Higgins, February 2, 1874-January 2, 1876; James G. Smith, February 2, 1874-died July 10, 1878; J. A. Sullivan, February 25, 1876-January 6, 1891; James F. Allyn, February 5, 1877-January 4, 1886; C. H. Heywood, July 16, 1878-January 11, 1880; Timothy Merrick, January 11, 1881-January 4, 1887; Maurice Lynch, January 4, 1886-January 5, 1892; James E. Delaney, January 4, 1887-January 7, 1887; Moses Newton, January 18, 1887-January 2, 1893; James J. Curran, January 6, 1891-February 4, 1896; Martin P. Conway, January 5, 1892-January 3, 1898; Charles D. Colson, January 2, 1893-February 1, 1900; John J. Sullivan, January 27, 1896-now in office; Thomas F. Greaney, January 3, 1898-1901; Joseph A. Skinner, February 1, 1900-now in office; Maurice Lynch, 1901; Arthur M. French, January, 1901-now in office. Water commissioners, 1902, John J. Sullivan, chairman; Joseph A. Skinner, treasurer; Arthur M. French, secretary.

Superintendents.—Moses Stevens, 1874-1881; John D. Hardy, 1881-now in office.

Registrars.—E. M. Bolton, 1874-76; E. P. Clark, 1876-93; J. C. Sullivan, 1893-1900; Albert E. Pickup, 1900-now in office.

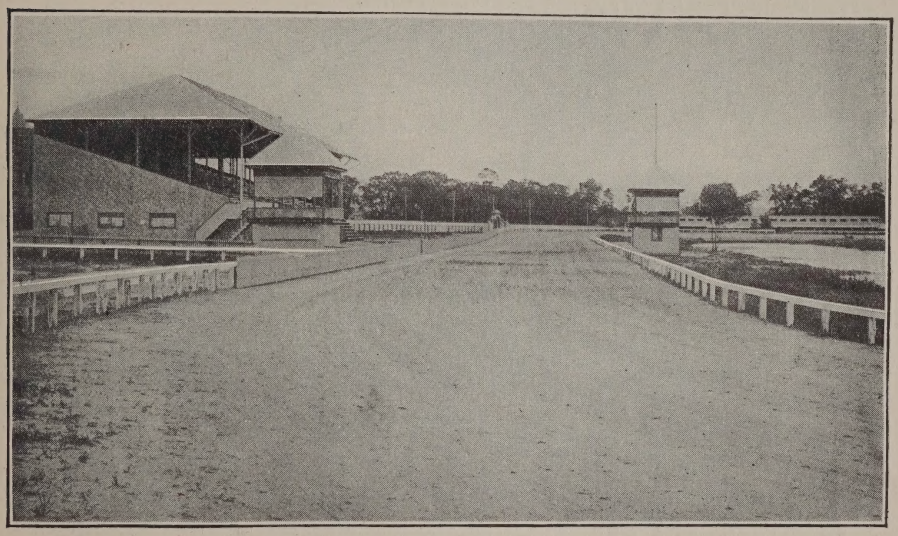
THE PARK DEPARTMENT

The founders of Holyoke, nearly all of whom were of New England birth, proved true to the early custom of their region when they laid out and established a comfortable park tract near the central part of their town more than half a century ago.

That which now is known as Hampden park is the result of this early thoughtfulness on the part of our immediate ancestors, although many of those who were instrumental in building up the town were chiefly interested in the advantages hoped to be derived from the operations of the water power company. At a later date the Holyoke Water Power company generously donated a tract of land for use as a public park, and at intervals in subsequent years still other park tracts have been acquired by the city by purchase and also through the gift of public spirited citizens. In this manner Holyoke has become possessed of six park tracts, none of them

of large area, but in the aggregate amounting to 23.71 acres of land. To these lands there should be added the famous Mountain park, 900 acres in extent, the property of the Mt. Tom railroad company, which is for the free use and benefit of the public. It is maintained at the expense of the company, and while not within the jurisdiction of the city it nevertheless is one of the most beautful and popular resorts in all New England.

The public parks of the city are known, respectively, as Hampden, Elmwood, Cononchet (given by the Holyoke Water



"The Stretch"

Springdale Driving Park, South Holyoke, a popular race track in Hampden County

Power company[1]), Germania, Hamilton and Prospect parks, and are under the immediate control of the board of park commissioners. The annual appropriation for maintenance is about $5,500. In 1882 the legislature passed an act authorizing towns and cities to lay out public parks within their limits, yet Holyoke appears not to have availed itself of the provisions of the act

[1]As a matter of fact the city is indebted to the company for Hampden, Germania, Elmwood and Prospect parks, as well as for Cononchet.

until about two years afterward. Previous to that time the control of the parks was vested in the city council and one of the committees of that body, and during that period the public pleasure grounds received little more than indifferent attention; but under the board of park commissioners proper attention has been given to this element of municipal life, although the appropriations generally have been small in amount.

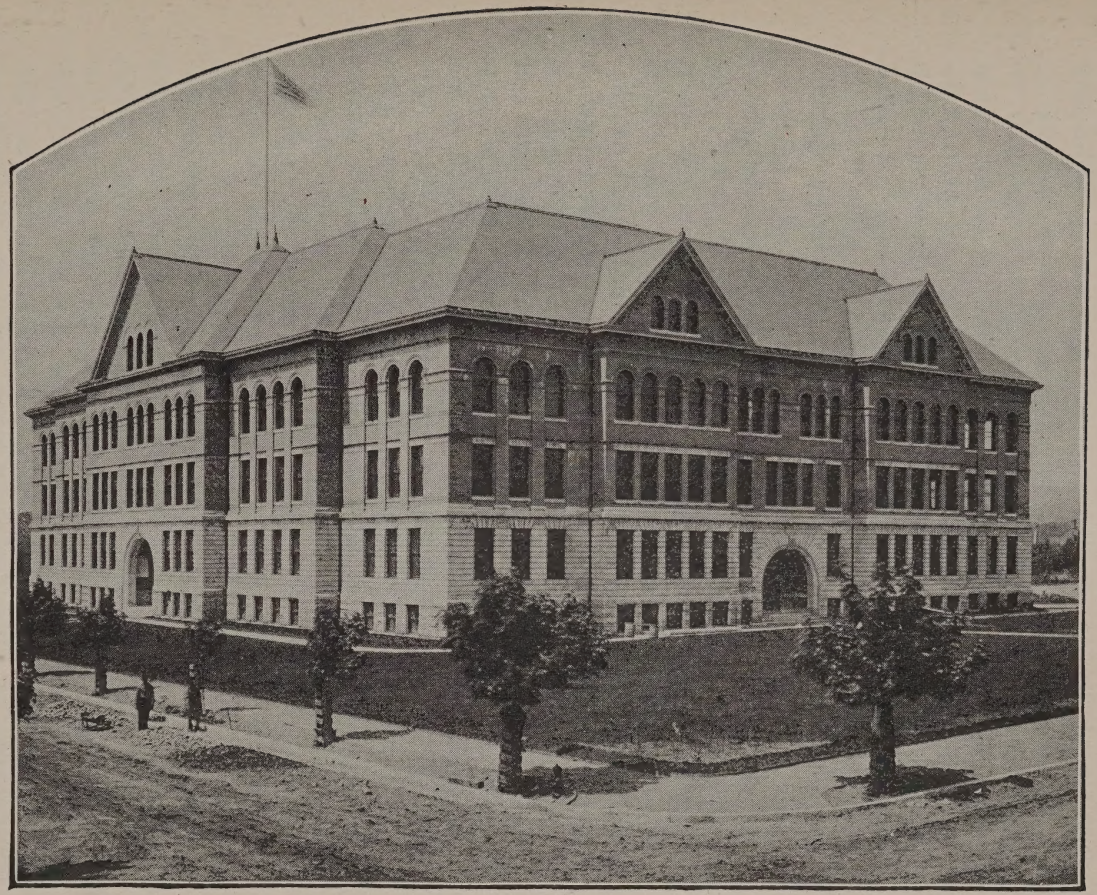
The appended list shows the personnel of the first board of park commissioners, with the names of subsequent appointees as vacancies occurred:

Park Commissioners.—William Grover, John O'Donnell, James Ramage, Robert B. Johnson, Maurice Lynch, 1884; John J. Prew, 1885; John J. Nugent, 1886; George Spamer, Wilbert T. Dean, 1888; George H. Smith, Charles R. Heubler, William S. Loomis, 1889; Thomas F. Greaney, 1890; Thomas J. Gibson, James Barnes, 1892; Timothy Merrick, 1893; Mederic J. Laporte, 1894; Daniel H. Newton, 1895; Antoine Marcotte, Charles G. Mackintosh, 1900; James F. Burns, 1901; Antoine Marcotte, James F. Burns, John McNairn, Charles E. Mackintosh, Max Otto Driekorn (full board), 1902.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

From such meagre records as have been preserved it is difficult to determine just when the mother town of Springfield first made provision for the support of a school in that part of its domain which afterward acquired the name of Ireland parish, but which now comprises the city of Holyoke. It is known, however, that for more than a quarter of a century previous to the incorporation of West Springfield a school was maintained in the locality indicated, and that the settlers themselves secured the location and caused the erection of the first school house.

When West Springfield was set off as a separate town (1774) the authorities gave more earnest attention to the educational welfare of the youth and soon divided the territory into districts, providing one school in the so-called Ireland parish, the latter then comprising district No. 15. The earliest school record dates from 1802, and for several years furnishes only



High School, Holyoke

meagre information regarding the number and location of the schools of that period or of the persons who were identified with their management. This, however, is unimportant in our present chapter, for the history of education in Holyoke really begins with the creation of the town, in 1850. Indeed, for several years previous to incorporation there had been independent action on the part of the inhabitants for the benefit of the schools in the parish, and as early as 1808 an excellent school, the Rand seminary, was established for the purpose of affording the youth of the parish better educational advantages than the common schools could provide.

The seminary was established through the efforts of Rev. Thomas Rand, one of the founders and the first pastor of the Baptist society in the parish; and while Elder Rand's co-workers in the seminary enterprise were chiefly of his own religious followers, the institution itself was not intended to be a denominational school, but rather for the welfare of all the townsfolk who could avail themselves of its benefits. Deacon Perez Hitchcock, Caleb Humeston, Austin Goodyear, Noah Wolcott and David Bassett are remembered as Elder Rand's principal supporters in establishing the seminary, yet others of the townsmen gave substantial aid to the institution during its early history. The founder was its head and its guiding spirit for twenty-four years, and upon his removal from the locality, the building was taken down and re-erected at a more central point in the parish, and no longer was a distinctive institution of the Baptist colony. In its new location the building was occupied in part as a district school and in part as a seminary.

Following Elder Rand, William Gamwell taught in the seminary, and in allusion to him it took the name of "Gamwell's school." In later years the teachers were frequently changed, for with the increasing efficiency of the public school system the old tuition institution lost its prestige in the town; and with the establishment of the first high school in Holyoke, in 1852, the career of the seminary was ended. However, during the period of its history under Elder Rand, and his successor, Mr. Gamwell, the seminary was a flourishing institution of learning

in the region, and many of the foremost men of the town of half a century ago acquired their early business training within its comfortable walls.

In 1850 the town of West Springfield comprised twenty-four school districts, and when in that year Holyoke was set off eight of these districts were within the new jurisdiction, and also two-fifths of the total school population. In that year the school census showed Holyoke to contain 537 children between the ages of five and fifteen years, and for the instruction of such of them as then attended school the town voted an appropriation of $1,800. The first annual report of the school committee showed a division of the town into nine districts and the maintenance of thirteen schools, viz.: Dist. 1, five schools, 339 children of school age; No. 2, one school, 66 children; No. 3, two schools, 43 children; No. 4, one school, 16 children; No. 5, one school, 25 children; No. 6, one school, 16 children; No. 7, one school, 20 children; No. 8, having no school, 12 children; No. 9, one school, and children enumerated with district No. 2.

The first twenty years after the incorporation of the town constituted the formative period of the present admirable school system of the city; and indeed the work of formation was continued under the charter until after the completion of the new high school building. In the summer of 1852 a high school was established in district No. 1, and Stephen Holman was appointed its first principal. In 1855 this district contained eight schools, three primary and three introductory (which now would be termed intermediate schools), one grammar school and one high school. A new high school building was erected in 1862 and cost $8,500. In 1863 the first graduating exercises were held, and on that occasion six young ladies were awarded diplomas. This pioneer class comprised Alice Emerson, Sara C. Grover, H. Emogene Heywood, Agnes M. Kelt, Emma J. Loomis and Alice A. Wild.

In 1864 the schools were first given names suited to the localities in which they were respectively situated. Thus, in that year we note the names of the Sargent street school, the Ewingville school, the North school (Ireland), the Middle school

(Baptist village), the South school(near Alexander Day's), the West street school, and the Rock Valley school. A few of these names have been retained, but with the rapid increase of the city's population and the consequent growth and out-spreading of all interests new names have been chosen for school designations.

From 1860 to 1863 the work of supervising the schools devolved upon the school committee, comprised of three prominent citizens who were willing to devote their time and energies to the work of building up the educational system of the town; and frequently for several years a majority of the board was

South Chestnut Street School

comprised of clergymen, who were supposed to understand the needs of the schools far better than the average citizen. In 1863 the first superintendent of schools was chosen in compliance with a state law, and from that time to the date of the city charter, a period of eleven years, there were eight incumbents of the superintendency. The succession is as follows:

Superintendents.—Joseph P. Buckland, 1863-64; Rev. Simeon Miller, 1865; Oscar Ely, 1866; Dr. L. F. Humeston (for a few months), 1867; George C. Ewing, 1867-68; S. H. Walker, 1869-70; Rev. L. A. Fish, 1871; George R. Chase, 1872; Louis H. Marvel, 1873.

The succession of principals of the high school from 1852 to 1874 is as follows: Stephen Holman, succeeded by Mr. Brown, 1852; J. I. Ira Adams, 1853-56; Rev. Emory Wright, succeeded by Joseph P. Buckland, 1857; Nathan R. Morse, succeeded by Joseph P. Buckland, 1858; Joseph P. Buckland, 1859-62; Thomas B. Stockwell, 1863; F. D. Douglass, 1863-64; William R. Baldwin, 1865-67; Edward P. Jackson, 1868-69; George W. Edwards, 1870-73.

The town school committee from 1850 to 1874 was comprised as follows: Dr. E. M. Snow, Rev. Asahel Chapin, Rev. Simeon Miller, 1850; Rev. Asahel Chapin, Dr. A. B. Clark, 1851; Rev. Asahel Chapin, Rev. Mark Carpenter, Rev. Simeon Miller, 1852; Rev. Simeon Miller, Rev. Mark Carpenter, William B. C. Pearsons, 1853; Mark Carpenter, James W. Ford, Gustavus Snow, 1854; Rev. James French, Rev. Simeon Miller, James K. Mills, 1855; Simeon Miller, Rev. J. B. R. Walker, Stephen Holman, 1856; Simeon Miller, G. W. Gorham, Stephen Holman, 1857; William B. C. Pearsons (3 years), Simeon Miller (2 years), Charles H. Spring (1 year), 1858[1]; Lester Newell, 1859; Simeon Miller, 1860; J. Lasell, 1861; Dr. E. G. Pierce, 1862; Simeon Miller, Stephen Holman (for 3 years), Joseph P. Buckland, John E. Chase (for 2 years), Edwin H. Ball (for 1 year), 1863; Rev. A. M. Averill, Oscar Ely, 1864; Henry A. Chase, Frank D. Douglass, 1865; John E. Chase, Rev. L. R. Eastman, Simeon Miller, 1866; L. F. S. Humeston, James H. Newton, 1867; William Whiting, George C. Ewing, Robert B. Johnson, 1868; Simeon Miller, J. S. Webber, 1869; George H. Thayer, Charles H. Lyman (3 years), J. L. A. Fish (2 years), T. B. Flanders (1 year), 1870; Edward W. Chapin, R. S. Howard, 1871; Ezra Flagg, Charles W. Ranlet, 1872; Dr. N. B. Chase, Adam Leining, 1873.

Under the charter the educational interests of the city received greater care than was possible under the town system of government with its numerous embarrassments, and from that time the work of permanent building up and progress dates its

[1]At this meeting the members were first chosen for terms longer than one year. For later years the succession shows who was elected at each town meeting.

history. The good accomplished by the school committee of earlier years served as the foundation of still further improvement by the new board of education, while the superintendents were enabled to devote themselves entirely to the work of the schools. The constant growth of the city, at times increasing in population almost one hundred per cent. in a single decade, necessitated frequent enlargement of existing buildings and the erection of others to meet the requirements of the people, and all of the consequent expenditure of moneys was generously sanctioned by the taxpayers upon the presentations of the school committee. A detailed statement of the construction of new school houses from time to time is not essential to our narrative, yet at no time in the history of the city has there been shown a tendency to subordinate educational interests to other departments of municipal life. True, there have been times in which certain desired improvements have been delayed, but the work of education has progressed steadily, keeping even step with the march of advancement in other directions. In the accomplishment of this great work the school committees have labored earnestly and unselfishly, and the people have patiently borne the burden of expense; and as the result of this combined effort Holyoke at the beginning of the twentieth century can boast as many and as good schools as any similar city in New England.

While the taxpayers and the school committee have been perhaps the chief factors in accomplishing the results noted above, one of the principal auxiliaries in their work has been found in the excellent superintendency and the admirable work of the corps of teachers. Glancing over the list of superintendents under the charter, the entire number has been but four persons, while the principalship of the high school has had only four incumbents during the same period of almost thirty years. Mr. Marvel was superintendent from 1874 to 1878, and during his term in office accomplished much good work in school organization. He was succeeded by Mr. Kirtland, during whose long period of service in the superintendency the greatest strides in the history of education in the city were made. While he was in office the general population of the city increased more

than twofold, and in the same time nearly all the old school buildings were enlarged or replaced with new ones, and still others entirely new were added to the number. The beginning of the new high school building was one of the grandest results accomplished during his time, and for several years previous to its construction he had labored earnestly to secure that institution for the city. The structure was finished in 1898, and is regarded as one of the most complete and modern buildings of its kind in New England. The more recent acquisitions to the school properties of the city are the Highland grammar and the Springdale and Elmwood buildings, all modern and model structures.

According to the latest published report of the superintendent of schools, the city has a total school population (five to fifteen years) of 9,479 children, with an average membership in all schools of nearly 5,500 pupils. The total revenue of the school department for purposes of maintenance is about $180,000. The estimated value of public school property in the city is about $1,000,000. The number of public schools is nineteen; of parochial and private schools, seven. The latter are made the subject of special mention in another chapter.

Under the provisions of the city charter adopted in 1873, the school committee comprised the mayor, *ex-officio,* and nine members, citizens, chosen two at large and one from each of the seven wards. The mayor was the presiding officer of the board. Under the revised charter of 1896, which became operative in 1897, the board was continued as under the old charter, except that the mayor, while allowed to be present and to participate in the discussions of the committee in its meetings, was denied the privilege of a vote. He retained, however, in his official capacity, the power of approval or veto of orders and resolutions which involved the expenditure of money, except those fixing salaries. The school committee was made (and still is) original judge of "the expediency or necessity of having additional or improved accommodations for any public school within the limits of the city."

The succession of principals of the high school, superintendents and school committees since 1874 is as follows:

Principals.—Charles S. Hemingway, 1874-85; William E. Judd, 1886-97; Charles H. Keyes, 1898-99; W. C. Akers, 1900-02 (now serving).

Superintendents—Louis H. Marvel, 1874-77; Edwin L. Kirtland, 1878-96; Preston W. Search, 1897-99; Louis P. Nash, 1900-02 (now in office).

School Committee—1874, A. Leining and Edward W. Chapin, at large; John W. Dower, ward 1; Fred Morrison, ward 2; H. Springborn, ward 3; Peter McKeon, ward 4; D. E. Sullivan, ward 5; J. G. Mackintosh, ward 6; S. H. Walker, ward 7.

1875—A. Leining and M. M. Mitivier, at large; John Dower,[1] Fred Morrison, E. Springborn, Dr. L. M. Tuttle, John Doyle, J. G. Mackintosh, S. H. Walker.

1876—Dr. L. M. Tuttle and Dr. M. M. Mitivier, at large; John A. Dower, Fred Morrison, H. Springborn, William Kelly, John Doyle, J. G. Machintosh, S. H. Walker.

1877—M. M. Mitivier and George C. Ewing, at large; William Ruddy, Fred Morrison, A. Stursberg, William Kelly, John Doyle, J. G. Mackintosh, S. H. Walker.

1878—George C. Ewing and John Doyle, at large; William Ruddy, Fred Morrison, A. Stursberg, William Kelly, D. F. Donoghue, J. G. Mackintosh, Embury P. Clark.

1879—George C. Ewing and John Doyle, at large; William Ruddy, Fred Morrison, Patrick Herbert, William Kelly, Daniel M. Manning, Edward W. Chapin, E. P. Clark.

1880—L. M. Tuttle and John Doyle, at large; James Barnes, Fred Morrison, James Buffington, William Kelly, D. M. Manning, E. W. Chapin, E. P. Clark.

1881—L. M. Tuttle and George H. Smith, at large; James Barnes, Fred Morrison, James Buffington, William Kelly, D. M. Manning, E. W. Chapin, E. P. Clark.

1882—George H. Smith and L. M. Tuttle, at large; James Barnes, T. L. Curran, James Buffington, M. M. Mitivier, D. M. Manning, E. W. Chapin, E. P. Clark.

1883—George H. Smith and George C. Ewing, at large;

[1]Members are mentioned in the order of ward numbers.

William Grover, T. L. Curran, James Buffington, M. M. Mitivier D. F, Donoghue, E. W. Chapin, E. P. Clark.

1884—George H. Smith and George C. Ewing, at large; William Grover, T. L. Curran, Henry Winkler, M. M. Mitivier, D. F. Donoghue, E. W. Chapin, E. P. Clark.

1885—George H. Smith and George C. Ewing, at large; William Grover, Chalmers Chapin, Henry Winkler, James Tierney, D. F. Donoghue, John J. Reardon, E. P. Clark.

1886—George H. Smith and Simeon Brooks, at large; John W. Mullin, Chalmers Chapin, Henry Winkler, James Tierney, D. F. Donoghue, John J. Reardon, E. P. Clark.

1887—Joseph W. Moore and Pierre Bonvouloir, jr., at large; J. W. Mullin, Chalmers Chapin, Henry Winkler, James Tierney, D. F. Donoghue, John J. Reardon, E. P. Clark.

1888-89—Joseph W. Moore and Pierre Bonvouloir, jr., at large; William J. Dower, Lawrence O'Neill, Lebrecht G. Heinritz, Thomas J. Carmody, Augustine W. Esleeck, G. H. Smith, E. P. Clark.

1890—Pierre Bonvouloir, jr., and Rebuen C. Winchester, at large; William J. Dower, Lawrence O'Neill, L. G. Heinritz, T. J. Carmody, Lyman M. Tuttle, G. H. Smith, E. P. Clark.

1891—Pierre Bonvouloir, jr., and R. C. Winchester, at large; W. J. Dower, Terrence Curran, L. G. Heinritz, William Kelly, L. M. Tuttle, George H. Smith, E. P. Clark.

1892—R. C. Winchester and Thomas Conner, at large; William A. Moore, T. L. Curran, Louis Friederich, William Kelly, Dr. L. M. Tuttle, George H. Smith, Aug. W. Esleeck.

1893—William Reardon and Thomas Conner, at large; W. A. Moore, T. L. Curran, Louis Friederich, William Kelly, Dr. L. M. Tuttle, George H. Smith, Aug. W. Esleeck.

1894—William Reardon and Thomas Conner, at large; W. A. Moore, Odilon Z. E. Charest, Louis Friederich, Thomas J. Dillon, Dr. L. M. Tuttle, George H. Smith, A. W. Esleeck.

1895—William Reardon and Thomas Conner, at large; W. A. Moore, O. Z. E. Charest, Herman Heinritz, T. J. Dillon, L. M. Tuttle, A. W. Esleeck.

1896—Milton F. Druce and Thomas Conner, at large; W. A. Moore, O. Z. E. Charest, Herman Heinritz, T. J. Dillon, Daniel F. Donoghue, G. H. Smith, A. W. Esleeck.

1897—Milton F. Druce and Thomas Conner, at large; W. A. Moore, O. Z. E. Charest, Herman Heinritz, Thomas J. Lynch, D. F. Donoghue, Edward N. White, A. W. Esleeck.

1898—Thomas J. Carmody and William Reardon, at large; Joseph B. Walsh, O. Z. E. Charest, George P. Ellison, T. J. Lynch, D. F. Donoghue, E. N. White, A. W. Esleeck.

1899—T. J. Carmody and William Reardon, at large; J. B. Walsh, O. Z. E. Charest, George P. Ellison, T. J. Lynch, Thomas J. Lynch, E. N. White, A. W. Esleeck.

1900—T. J. Carmody and William Reardon, at large; J. B. Walsh, O. Z. E. Charest, T. J. Lynch, Thomas J. Lynch, George H. Smith, A. W. Esleeck.

1901—T. J. Carmody and William Reardon, at large; Edward F. Cary, O. Z. E. Charest, G. P. Ellison, T. J. Lynch, G. H. Smith, A. W. Esleeck.

1902—William Reardon and Robert T. Prentiss, at large; Edward F. Cary, Odilon Z. E. Charest, George P. Ellison, Thomas J. Lynch, Dennis F. Cleary, George H. Smith, Marciene H. Whitcomb.

HOLYOKE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

During the summer and fall of 1869 a number of leading citizens of Holyoke discussed the subject of organizing an association for the establishment and maintenance of a public library in the city, and as the natural outgrowth of the sentiment expressed on every hand a public meeting was held January 12, 1870, in the hall of No. 1 engine house. Judge Buckland was elected chairman and Henry A. Chase secretary of the meeting, and after an earnest presentation of the needs of the city in regard to the library project, it was voted to "establish a public library in Holyoke," and also it was voted to appoint a committee of eleven persons to prepare and report a constitution and by-laws for the government of the association. The committee charged with this work comprised Rev. J. L. R. Trask, Moses Newton,

Henry A. Chase, George W. Prentiss, William Whiting, J. S. Webber, Chas. H. Lyman, Oscar Ely, E. P. Jackson, Joseph P. Buckland and William B. C. Pearsons. At the same time a committee of ten persons was appointed to solicit funds with which to carry into effect the objects of the association. This committee comprised Rev. J. L. R. Trask, J. S. Webber, Moses Newton, Timothy Merrick, Judge Buckland, Oscar Ely, George H. Clark, Charles B. Prescott, William S. Loomis and Chalmers Chapin.

At a meeting held January 18, it was voted to adopt the name of "Holyoke Public Library," and also to petition the general court for an act of incorporation. On January 24 a proposition was received from the Parsons Paper company in which the company offered to furnish land and erect a library building, of the value of $20,000, provided a like sum be raised by subscription for the purchase of books and fixtures. Upon the receipt of this offer a special committee (William Whiting, Judge Buckland and Henry A. Chase) was appointed to canvass the town for subscriptions to the fund, but at the end of a month the committee reported that pledges to the total amount of $11,000 had been secured, and that it was doubtful if more than $2,000 additional could be raised. Then a conference with the Parsons Paper company was held, but without material results, upon which the former finance committee was instructed to resume its canvass on the original basis.

On April 22, 1870, an act of the legislature incorporated the Holyoke Public Library, for the "formation and maintenance of a public library and museum," and authorized the association to hold real and personal estate to the amount of $100,000. The act also provided that the management and control of the property be vested in a board of directors, not less than five in number, to be elected by the corporation; and that "so long as said corporation shall allow the inhabitants of the town of Holyoke free access to its library at all reasonable hours, said town may appropriate and pay annually for the expense of maintenance a sum not exceding one dollar for each of its ratable polls." (This provision subsequently was modified.)

The first meeting after the act was approved was held May 16, 1870, at which time these officers were elected: President, William Whiting; vice-presidents, John E. Chase, Edwin Chase, George C. Ewing; treasurer and clerk of the corporation, Henry A. Chase; directors, William B. C. Pearsons, J. S. Webber, J. S. McElwain, William Grover and William S. Loomis.

The organization of the association having been completed, and the finance committee, previously mentioned, having secured a considerable sum of money in addition to the $1,000 appropriated by the town, the library began its career with every assurance of future prosperity, occupying upper rooms in the school building on Appleton street for several years. In the interior arrangement of the city hall certain apartments were designed for library occupancy, and at the annual meeting in 1875 it was voted to remove the books and fixtures to the new location, although some time passed before the removal was actually accomplished.

During the first few years of its history the library was maintained by the annual contributions of the members, the receipts from honorary and life memberships, and the somewhat meagre appropriations by the town. At first the appropriations were $1,000 annually, but after a time the amount dropped to $500. In 1883 the amount was increased to $1,000, and about that time it was suggested that the library be made absolutely free. This was done in 1886, and for the next year the city voted $2,000 for maintenance. Later on the amount was gradually increased, first to $2,500, then to $2,750, and eventually (1893) to $3,000, which sum has since been appropriated annually. For the current year of 1902 the appropriation is $6,000. In 1888 the mayor and the president of the common council were made *ex-officio* members of the board of directors, and thus the library became a *quasi* municipal institution.

Soon after 1895 the friends of the library began to discuss the project of an independent building, and on frequent occasions the directors did effective work in that direction. The subject, however, was one of discussion only until the spring of 1899, when the Holyoke Water Power company gave to the as-

sociation the entire square bounded by Maple, Chestnut, Cabot and Essex streets for the purpose of having erected thereon a library building—a structure suited to the requirements of the constantly growing city. In the same year the association voted to apply to the general court for permission to hold real estate to the amount of $500,000, instead of $100,000, as prescribed in the original act of incorporation. This was accomplished, and in the same year the number of directors was increased to thirteen members. By diligent effort the directors secured pledges to the amount of $75,000 for a building fund, and this was afterward increased by further contributions. The building committee under whose immediate and constant supervision the work of construction was done comprised William Whiting, James H. Newton, Joseph A. Skinner, Charles W. Rider, N. H. Whitten, J. S. Webber, Joseph Metcalf, E. P. Bagg and J. S. McElwain; architect, James A. Clough; contractor, F. H. Dibble.

The library building is one of the most complete and ornamental structures in the city, and all persons who were identified with its construction, in whatever capacity, are entitled to the lasting gratitude of the people. A large share of the credit for the splendid work accomplished is due to the board of directors, who from first to last labored earnestly in its behalf. Indeed, from the time the institution was founded, more than thirty years ago, the directors in office have been its most faithful friends and earnest advocates. They have been chosen from among the best business and professional men of the city, and have given unselfishly both of their time and means for the public good.

The library building is of light pressed brick with Indiana sandstone trimmings. Its entire cost was nearly $100,000. In its construction the future growth of the city has been contemplated, yet at this time the catalogue shows more than 20,000 volumes of books on the shelves. The building was finished and ready for occupancy February 1, 1902.

The officers and directors of the association since 1870 have been as follows:

Presidents—William Whiting, 1870-1902.

Vice-Presidents—John E. Chase, Edwin Chase, George C. Ewing, 1870-71; Edwin Chase, James H. Newton, William B. C. Pearsons, 1872; Edwin Chase, William B. C. Pearsons, Anderson Allyn, 1873-77; William B. C. Pearsons, Rev. J. L. R. Trask, Edwin Chase, 1878-82; William B. C. Pearsons, Edward W. Chapin, William S. Loomis, 1883-92; Edward W. Chapin, William S. Loomis, J. S. McElwain, 1893-1902.

Treasurers—Henry A. Chase, 1870-1900; H. M. Chase, 1901-2.

Secretaries—Henry A. Chase, 1870-1900; Frank G. Willcox, 1901-2.

Directors—William B. C. Pearsons, J. S. Webber, J. S. McElwain, William Grover, William S. Loomis, 1870-71; William Grover, Joseph P. Buckland, J. S. McElwain, J. S. Webber, William S. Loomis, 1872; William Grover, Joseph P. Buckland, James H. Newton, J. S. McElwain, William S. Loomis, 1873-79; William S. Loomis, J. S. McElwain, James H. Newton, William Grover, Edward W. Chapin, 1880-82; J. S. McElwain, William Grover, James H. Newton, A. L. Shumway, H. L. Sherman, 1883-84; J. S. McElwain, James H. Newton, H. L. Sherman, E. C. Taft, James E. Delaney, 1885; J. S. McElwain, James H. Newton, E. C. Taft, H. L. Sherman, Oscar Ely, 1886-92; H. L. Sherman, E. C. Taft, J. H. Newton, Oscar Ely, William H. Heywood, 1893-97; H. L. Sherman, James H. Newton, Oscar Ely, William H. Heywood, Thomas W. Mann, 1898; James H. Newton, Oscar Ely, William H. Heywood, J. S. Webber, E. P. Bagg, N. H. Whitten, C. A. Corser, H. B. Lawrence, J. A. Sullivan, Joseph Metcalf, William Skinner, C. W. Rider, James Ramage, 1899; James H. Newton, William H. Heywood, E. P. Bagg, C. A. Corser, J. A. Sullivan, William Skinner, J. S. Webber, N. H. Whitten, H. B. Lawrence, Joseph Metcalf, C. W. Rider, James Ramage, A. W. Esleeck, 1900; E. P. Bagg, William H. Heywood, C. A. Corser, J. A. Sullivan, William Skinner, J. S. Webber, N. H. Whitten, H. B. Lawrence, Joseph Metcalf, C. W. Rider, James Ramage, A. W. Esleeck, George W. Prentiss, 1901-2.

Librarians—Sarah C. Ely, 1870-Aug. 6, 1900; Frank G. Willcox, Aug. 6, 1900—now in office.

THE HOLYOKE CITY HOSPITAL.

Previous to the incorporation of the association our city was without a hospital of any kind, except that patients were admitted for hospital treatment to one of the departments of the city almshouse, where they were cared for at the public expense.

In April, 1891, at a gathering at the residence of William Whiting, the need of a modern hospital in Holyoke was discussed, and at a subsequent meeting a subscription was started and a plan of work was laid out; and it was thought advisable to request two representative women to assist in the work of securing subscriptions. Mrs. William Whiting and Mrs. E. C. Taft were chosen and "their work was nobly done," says the first annual report of the hospital association.

On May 23, 1891, the Holyoke City hospital was incorporated in conformity with the statutes. The incorporators were William Skinner, Joseph A. Skinner, J. G. Mackintosh, James H. Newton, George W. Prentiss, Edward P. Bagg, William Whiting, William F. Whiting, E. C. Taft, Timothy Merrick, Lemuel Sears, James Ramage, L. M. Tuttle, N. H. Whitten, Joseph Metcalf and Edward W. Chapin. About the same time the organization of the Hospital Aid association, composed entirely of women, gave added interest to the work in hand. The object of the association is to furnish the hospital, to assist in its maintenance in such manner as is deemed most suitable, and generally to perform any charitable work in connection with the hospital. In this connection it may be said that the aid association has fully accomplished all its aims and purposes. With funds secured through members the hospital building has been well and comfortably furnished, and in addition thereto a reserve fund is kept on hand for the benefit of persons who require hospital treatment, yet who have not the means to avail themselves of its privileges.

In due season the subscription committee completed their work, and with the proceeds, amounting to the splendid sum of

City Hospital

more than $50,000, land was purchased (20 acres) and hospital buildings were erected at a total cost of $52,600. The work of construction was completed and the hospital was formally dedicated on Saturday, June 10, 1893. It is one of the few public institutions which is maintained without expense to the city, and it is entirely nonsectarian in character. Patients are expected to pay for board and treatment, yet if they are not able to do so the aid association gives its help in the discretion of its managing officers.

Since its incorporation the officers of the hospital association have been as follows:

Presidents—William Skinner, 1893-99; William Whiting, 1900-02.

Vice-Presidents—William Whiting, 1893-99; James Ramage, 1900-02.

Treasurers—J. A. Skinner, 1893-99; William F. Whiting, 1900-02.

Clerk—B. F. Towne, 1893-1902.

Superintendents—L. M. Tuttle, M. D., 1893-96; Charles O. Carpenter, M. D., 1897-1901.

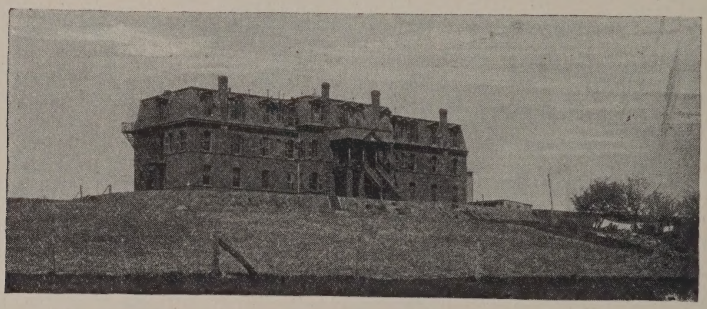
Stewards—William H. Jewett, 1893-98, and 1901-2 (now in office).

Matrons (after 1894 this office became known as superintendent of nurses)—Helen M. Hall, 1893-94; Miss C. E. Tower, 1895-98; Miss M. L. Daniels, 1899; Lillian O. West, 1900-02

The hospital aid association numbers 300 members. The present officers are as follows: President, Mrs. William Whiting; vice-presidents, Mrs. William Skinner, Mrs. C. H. Heywood; secretary, Mrs. F. D. Heywood; treasurer, Mrs. Joseph Metcalf; directors, Mrs. J. L. Burlingame, Mrs. J. E. Clark, Mrs. James Cowan, Mrs. J. M. Dunham, Mrs. Oscar Ely, Mrs. A. W. Esleeck, Mrs. H. M. Farr, Mrs. C. L. Frink, Mrs. F. D. Heywood, Mrs. C. W. Johnson, Mrs. J. G. Mackintosh, Mrs. Joseph Metcalf, Mrs. F. B. Miner, Mrs. D. H. Newton, Mrs. C. B. Prescott, Mrs. C. W. Ranlet, Mrs. E. A. Reed, Mrs. P. A. Streeter, Mrs. E. S. Waters, Mrs. S. R. Whiting.

In treating of the hospital institutions of our city some brief mention of the almshouse and the hospital in connection

therewith is necessary. This is one of the oldest of our public charities, and in its history antedates the town itself, for it was founded while the territory formed a part of the mother town of West Springfield. In April, 1850, the latter town voted to direct the selectmen to sell the "pauper farm and the hospital at Holyoke, at auction," if agreeable to the inhabitants of the new jurisdiction. It was then that Holyoke established its own infirmary and town hospital, and since that time has given considerate attention to the care and comfort of indigent and afflicted persons. The annual expense of the "City Farm hospital" approximates $2,500, and the institution is under the care of the overseers of the poor.



The Almshouse

In the same connection, also, mention may be made of the House of Providence hospital, another worthy charity of the city, and one of the dependencies of the Catholic church, maintained in connection with the Father Harkins home for infirm and aged persons. The hospital was opened in 1894, and is chiefly supported by the society known as the "Ladies of Charity."

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

This splendid institution originally was known as the "Holyoke Y. M. C. A.," and was so designated in the agreement for permanent organization at the time of incorporation, April 28, 1886. The corporators were Alfred T. Guyott, James P. Cowan, George P. Rice, Frank B. Towne, John H. Skinner, A. Judson

Rand, Martin L. Griffin, James H. Wylie, jr., H. M. Kendall, Dwight O. Judd, George L. Thorpe, C. R. Adams, Dwight Goddard, Thomas R. Humeston and William A. Aiken.

The association was formally organized, constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the first officers and directors were elected, June 15, 1886. For a few years the association occupied rented rooms on High street, and on June 19, 1889, a committee was chosen to purchase property at the corner of High and Appleton streets. In the following fall, a sufficient fund having been acquired, a building committee was chosen, under the direction of which plans for the present Y. M. C. A. building were prepared and adopted. The work of construction was begun in 1891, and the corner-stone was laid April 23, 1892. The structure was completed and occupied in 1893. The land cost $40,000 and the building cost about $88,000.

The association now numbers 675 members, and is regarded as one of the most worthy and useful institutions of our city. Since its organization the officers of the association have been as follows: James H. Wylie, jr., president; Charles R. Adams, vice-president; H. M. Kendall, treasurer; Dwight O. Judd, recording secretary, June-October, 1886. James H. Wylie, jr., president; Charles R. Adams, vice-president; Howard M. Kendall, treasurer; Dwight O. Judd, recording secretary, 1886-87. James H. Wylie, jr., president; Chas. R. Adams, vice-president; Joseph A. Skinner, treasurer; Lewis E. Bellows, recording secretary, 1887-88. James H. Wylie, jr., president; Charles R. Adams, vice-president; Joseph A. Skinner, treasurer; J. A. Skinner, recording secretary, 1888-93. A. W. Esleeck, president; John Hildreth, vice-president; T. H. Fowler, treasurer; L. E. Bellows, rec. sec., 1893-94; A. W. Esleeck, president; John Hildreth, vice-president; T. H. Fowler, treasurer; F. B. Towne, rec. sec., 1894-97. Joseph A. Skinner, president; John Hildreth, vice-president; T. H. Fowler, treasurer; F. B. Towne, rec. sec., 1897-1900. C. W. Rider, president; John Hildreth, vice-president; F. B. Towne, treasurer; J. H. Wylie, jr., rec. sec.; R. P. Kaighn, general secretary, 1900-01. C. W. Rider, president; John Hildreth, vice-president; F. B. Towne,

treasurer; J. H. Wylie, jr., rec. sec.; E. G. Randall, gen. sec., 1901-02. Directors, 1902—John Stalker, George L. Thorpe, C. S. Hemingway, E. P. Bagg, A. W. Esleeck, Joseph A. Skinner, S. H. Whitten, A. J. Rand, Edward W. Chapin, Henry A. Chase, William Morrison, T. H. Fowler.

HOLYOKE STREET RAILWAY COMPANY

The charter of the Holyoke Street Railway company bears date June 11, 1884. The incorporators were William A. Chase, Charles B. Prescott, Jeremiah A. Sullivan, Franklin P. Goodall, George H. Smith, William S. Loomis, George E. Dudley, Watson Ely, Simeon G. Gaylord, Henry E. Gaylord, William H. Gaylord, John Gaylord, Patrick J. Harkins, George P. Ellison, William H. Brooks, Willard Ely, W. D. Nichols, Helen D. Pendleton, Anthony White, Julia D. Patten, Hiram Smith, James M. Barton, Thomas C. Page, George G. Hitchcock, Mrs. George G. Hitchcock, Orrin Garvin, William Grover, Elwin D. Newcomb, William E. Syms, John K. Judd, Mary Ann Alvord, "and others," as is expressed in the charter.

Although the persons mentioned were the guiding spirits of the enterprise and were convinced that a line of street railway, operated with horse power, between South Hadley Falls and South Holyoke would benefit all commercial interests in the city, and also would prove a profitable investment for stockholders, it is doubtful if any of them who were actively identified with the enterprise in its inception ever believed that their first line of street railway would develope into the splendid system of the present day. This result has indeed been accomplished, although under a new management the company has achieved its greatest success.

The first board of directors comprised William A. Chase, Charles B. Prescott, Dr. George H. Smith, Franklin P. Goodall, George E. Dudley, Jeremiah A. Sullivan, William S. Loomis, Simeon G. Gaylord and Hiram Smith. The officers were William A. Chase, president; C. Fayette Smith, treasurer; H. M. Smith, superintendent; and William H. Brooks, clerk of the corporation.

The line of road authorized to be built and operated under the provisions of the charter, began at the corner of Main and South streets in South Holyoke, and extended thence to North Main street in South Hadley Falls, a distance of 10,872 feet. At this time it was the purpose of the company to build a loop around the Boston & Main R. R. station in Holyoke, a distance of 900 feet, but this part of the proposed line was abandoned. The line from South Hadley Falls to the corner of Main and Dwight streets was opened September 24, 1884, and the entire road to South Holyoke was opened for traffic October 15 of the same year.

The first extension of the original line was made in 1886, when a road was built from the junction of Main and Dwight streets through Dwight, High and Appleton streets to Beech street. This extension was opened June 24, 1886. Later on in the same year the line was extended from Beech street to the corner of Pleasant and Lincoln streets, on the highlands, and was opened November 20. Still later the line was extended to the corner of Northampton and Lincoln streets, and from the latter point was extended through Northampton street to Mountain park, and opened for traffic to that now famous resort July 7, 1895. The further extension to Mt. Tom Junction on the Northampton road (about 3 miles) was opened October 20, 1900. At the Junction the local road met the lines built by the Northampton Street Railway company, and thereby Holyoke was given direct "trolley" connection with the county seat of Hampshire county, and also with Easthampton by convenient change of cars at the junction.

The Elmwood line, extending from High and Appleton streets through High, Cabot, Maple and South streets, Brown avenue, Laurel and Northampton streets to a point near the Baptist church in Elmwood, was opened August 9, 1891.

The Oakdale line, the first original electric line in the city system, extending from the corner of Maple and Sargeant to Northampton street, was opened June 19, 1892.

The original line of road through Main street was extended from the old South Holyoke terminus to Springdale, August 7,

High Street

1892, and from the latter point south to Riley brook (where it met the line from Springfield) July 22, 1895; and thus Holyoke and Springfield were united by an excellent electric railway on which regular ten-minute service is maintained during eleven hours, with fifteen-minute service five and a half hours, and with limited service throughout the night.

The Chicopee Falls line, extending from the corner of Main and Cabot streets (although the cars start from the city hall) to Chicopee Falls, a distance of about four miles, was opened August 13, 1895; and at the Falls the line connects with the Chicopee Falls lines of the Springfield street railway system.

The South Hadley Falls line, that part of the original road which had its eastern terminus at the corner of Bridge and Main streets, was extended from the point mentioned to the center of the town of South Hadley (about 3 miles) and was opened for traffic May 31, 1896.

The extension from the city hall through High, Hampden, Washington and Lincoln streets to the corner of Pleasant and Lincoln streets, was opened October 1, 1897.

The extension from the junction of Meadow and Chicopee streets, in Willimansett, to the end of the covered bridge over Chicopee river (a distance of about 3 miles) was opened December 1, 1897.

The now known Hospital line, an extension of the Oakdale line to the corner of Northampton and Cherry streets, was opened in 1900.

Thus has the Holyoke Street Railway company, through its managing officers, developed its road from a single line extending from South Holyoke to South Hadley Falls, to one of the most complete systems of street railway of which any city in New England can boast. Previous to 1891 the lines were operated with horse power, but on August 9 of that year all cars were running with electric motor power; and all subsequently constructed lines or extensions were put into operation with motors.

The company under its original organization operated its lines without material change, with not better than indifferent

financial results, until 1888, when the management passed into other hands. Mr. Chase then was superseded in the presidency by Levi Perkins, and at the same time Mr. Smith was succeeded as treasurer by William S. Loomis, who also was elected to the equally important office of manager. In 1896 Mr. Loomis was elected president of the company and has held the office, as well as that of general manager, to the present time; and a sense of duty impells the writer to remark that in a great measure the success and popularity of the Holyoke system of electric street railways has been due to the efforts of the president and general manager, and the hearty co-operation accorded him by his associate directors and officers.

On August 9, 1891, the system was equipped and operated with electric motor cars. The power-house was built in the same year and now, with recent enlargements, is capable of furnishing 4,000 horse power. The original capital of the company was $25,000, but the constant extension of its lines of road has necessitated frequent increases in the issue of stock, until the present capital is $700,000, added to which is $335,000 in bonds, constituting an aggregate capital of $1,335,000. The company operates about forty miles of road, with a minimum number of about twenty-five cars constantly in motion (during the summer season as many as seventy cars are in service), and is one of the large employers of labor in a city famous for its wage-earning population.

The Holyoke Street Railway company is the lessee of the line of road owned by the Mt. Tom Railroad company, the latter a corporation with a capital of $100,000, and comprising in its board of directors several officers and directors of the Holyoke company. The Mt. Tom Railroad company began operations June 17, 1897, and the lease, which runs for twenty-five years, bears date June 1, 1897. The splendid work accomplished by the Mt. Tom company in beautifying Mountain park and erecting a commodious summer house on the highest peak of Mt. Tom range, is certainly deserving of at least passing mention in this chapter, although both park and mountain are beyond the limits of Hampden county.

The present officers of the Holyoke Street Railway company are: William S. Loomis, president and general manager; William R. Hill, secretary and treasurer (chosen secretary to succeed Mr. Brooks in 1892, and chosen treasurer to succeed Mr. Loomis in 1896); William S. Loomis, William R. Hill, Jeremiah F. Sullivan, John G. Mackintosh, John Olmsted, Frederick H. Harris and Newrie D. Winter, directors.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Previous to 1851 each manufacturer and merchant in the Ireland parish was his own banker, and not infrequently in the early history of the town it was the custom of some one of the larger business men to act as banker for his neighbors. This custom, however, did not prevail for any considerable time, and as soon as the Hadley Falls company was put into active operation interested proprietors took steps toward the organization of a regular banking house under the laws of the state. The result was the incorporation of the Hadley Falls bank, with an original capital stock of $100,000, and it was named in allusion to the water power company (then operating the canal system), through whose influence the banking corporation was brought into existence. The bank was organized May 24, 1851, and in 1853 it became desirable to increase the capital stock to $200,000.

The first board of directors comprised John Ross, N. D. Perry, Cyrus Frink, J. Miller, R. G. Marsh, Whiting Street, A. D. Chapin and William Melcher, some of whom at the time were not residents in the town of Holyoke. Mr. Street declined a place on the board of directors, and Chester Crafts was elected in his stead. The first officers were C. B. Rising, president, and J. R. Warriner, cashier. This pioneer banking institution enjoyed a prosperous existence for nearly fourteen years, and survived the water power company in allusion to which it was named; and even the collapse and ultimate failure of the improvement company had no serious effect upon the solidity of the financial institution.

The Hadley Falls National Bank.—In 1865 the stockholders and directors of the Hadley Falls bank determined to reorgan-

ize their institution in conformity with the provisions of the national bank act. At the time it was suggested that the name be changed to the First National bank of Holyoke, but it was soon determined to retain the name of the old pioner institution, which had weathered the financial storm of 1857 and the consequent failure of the Hadley Falls company. Therefore, the reorganized concern took the name of Hadley Falls National bank, being No. 1246 in the numerical order of banks established under the act of congress of 1863. The first officers of the new bank were C. W. Ranlet, president, and Hubbell P. Terry, cashier.

From the time of the reorganization (April 3, 1865) to the present day, the Hadley Falls National bank has held an enviable position among the successful financial institutions of this state; never has passed a dividend; never has met with serious losses, and on a capital of $200,000 has paid dividends aggregating $726,000. Its total net earnings since the reorganization amount to the sum of $867,312. In business circles the policy of the Hadley Falls National bank has sometimes been regarded as conservative, yet results have shown a policy liberal enough to gain the entire confidence of the community of manufacturers and have given it a standing for safety and solidity which certainly are enviable and a source of gratification to stockholders and directors.

Mr. Ranlet was the first president of the reorganized bank, and was the active spirit in its management until January 15, 1900, when he was succeeded by Mr. Prescott. Mr. Terry became cashier of the old Hadley Falls bank in 1864; was chosen to the same office upon reorganization, and still serves in that capacity; and in a good measure the success which has followed the bank through all later years of its history has been due to his ever consistent business methods and excellent judgment. Still another factor for good in the history of the bank, as well as in the history of many other institutions of the city, was the late William Skinner. He served as director for twenty-seven years, and as vice-president for twelve years. He died Feb. 28, 1902.

According to the latest published statement of its condition the Hadley Falls National bank has resources amounting to

$636,029.98; a surplus fund of $100,000; an undivided profit account of $47,790.08; and a deposit account of over $235,000.

Since the original incorporation in 1851 the succession of presidents is as follows: C. B. Rising, Rufus D. Woods, A. D. Chapin, Charles W. Ranlet and Charles B. Prescott. During the same period the cashiers have been J. R. Warriner, Charles W. Ranlett and Hubbell P. Terry. The present directors are Charles W. Ranlet, William Skinner (deceased, vacancy not filled), Charles B. Prescott, Philander Moore, Ernest Lovering, Robert Ranlet, John H. Preston and Hubbell P. Terry.

The Holyoke National Bank, No. 1939, was organized in 1872, its doors being opened for business Feb. 8 of that year, with William Whiting, president; Robert B. Johnson, vice-president, and F. S. Bacon, cashier. The first directors were William Whiting, Robert B. Johnson, George C. Ewing, J. G. Mackintosh, Joel Russell, Levi Perkins and George W. Prentiss. The bank began business with an original capital of $150,000, but in the course of a year the amount was increased to $200,000.

At the time the Holyoke National began business there was only one other regular commercial bank in the town, although the population was about 12,000 inhabitants, and the mercantile district had extended up Dwight street to High street. The incorporators and directors were among the leading manufacturers of the region, hence any institution founded under their influence and support could hardly fail of success; and success certainly has marked the financial career of this bank throughout the entire period of its history, and particularly during the last twenty years.

In proof of this statement let us turn to the report of the condition of the bank in 1881 and compare certain of its figures with those shown in the report of Feb. 25, 1902. In the year first mentioned the aggregate resources of the bank amounted to a little more than $776,000, including $200,000 capital. The surplus fund then was $28,500, with an undivided profit account of $15,534.63. The aggregate of individual deposits subject to check was $307,692.45, and of certificate deposits subject to demand, $24,058.64. As shown by the report of Feb. 25, 1902,

the total resources of the bank amount to $1,324,973.38, with a surplus of $100,000 and an undivided profit account of $49,274.46. The deposit account, subject to check, exceeds $746,000, and the demand certificate account is more than $51,400. Assuredly these figures indicate that this has been a successful institution and that its progress has been steady and permanent; and justice impels us to state that in banking and other business circles in the Connecticut valley the Holyoke National is regarded as one of the safest and most progressive financial concerns in the region. The bank never has passed a dividend, never has had its surplus nor capital impaired by any disaster, and has paid an average annual dividend of 9 per cent. for seventeen years.

Mr. Whiting was president of the bank from its organization until 1887, when he was succeeded by George W. Prentiss. The latter was followed in 1892 by Charles H. Heywood, who continued in office until his death in April, 1896. Robert B. Johnson succeeded Mr. Heywood and was president until his death, Nov. 1, 1899, when George W. Prentiss was elected. The present president, George C. Gill, was elected in January, 1901. In the cashiership the changes have been less frequent. Mr. Bacon was followed by Charles B. Fish, and the latter by W. G. Simons. The present cashier, William G. Twing, began his service in December, 1879, and for more than twenty-two years has been the active financial manager of the affairs of the bank.

The present officers and directors of the bank are as follows: George C. Gill, president; Robert Russell, vice-president; William G. Twing, cashier; George C. Gill, A. A. Coburn, D. H. Ives, Robert Russell, Charles E. Ball, James N. Thayer and William G. Twing, directors.

The City National Bank (No. 2430) of Holyoke was incorporated August 22, 1879, with an original capital of $200,000. The first board of directors comprised a number of the prominent business men of our own city, and others from adjoining towns. They were Joseph C. Parsons, John S. McElwain, Joseph Carew, Joel S. Webber, Timothy Merrick, James H. Newton, Charles B. Prescott, Edward C. Taft, Frederick H. Harris, Nehe-

miah A. Leonard, Emory Meekins, Fred Harris, Aaron Bagg, Henry A. Gould and Hiram Smith. The first officers were Joseph C. Parsons, president, and Edwin L. Munn, cashier.

The City National bank began its business career at a single desk in rooms on Dwight street, then (and still) occupied by the Mechanics' Savings bank, but within the next ten years new and especially fitted quarters became necessary by reason of the business the bank was then doing. Indeed, in 1888 the bank was virtually reorganized and the capital was increased to $500,000, and when the new quarters at No. 26 Dwight street were occupied the City National became known as the best and most conveniently located banking house in Holyoke and as one of the best equipped financial institutions in Western Massachusetts. In its business policy since reorganization the bank has gained a reputation equal to that of any financial concern in Hampden county, and has become widely known on account of safe business methods and liberality in dealing with customers and depositors. The result is that this bank carries the largest deposit account of any commercial banking house in Holyoke. The latest statement shows total deposits subject to check of over $779,000, and certificate accounts amounting to more than $20,000. The surplus is $100,000; undivided profits, $23,607.61.

Mr. Parsons was president of the bank until his death, in 1886, and was succeeded by Charles B. Prescott, who continued in office until 1889. In January of that year Timothy Merrick was elected and served until his death, in 1894, when William Skinner, jr., was chosen his successor. In January, 1897, C. Fayette Smith was elected president and since that time has been the active manager of the bank's business affairs. His predecessors in the presidency generally were men whose other important business enterprises demanded much of their attention, and while nominally and in fact presidents of the bank, the duties of the management devolved upon the cashier. Mr. Smith acquired his practical business training in the Hadley Falls National bank and was made cashier of the City National in 1884, hence under his management the reorganization above referred to was effected. As cashier Mr. Munn was succeeded by Mr.

Smith in 1884, and upon the election of the latter to the presidency, January, 1897, Alvin F. Hitchcock was chosen cashier.

The present directors of the bank are John S. McElwain, Joel S. Webber, Lemuel Sears, Edward P. Bagg, Claudius W. Rider, Timothy H. Fowler, Arthur B. Chapin, C. Fayette Smith and Henry E. Gaylord.

The Home National Bank (No. 3128) of Holyoke was organized February 5, 1884, with $250,000 capital, and in the comparatively brief period of its business career has attained a position among the first banking houses in Western Massachusetts. It was the first bank in Holyoke to place safety deposit boxes in its vaults, and also set the example in the city in elegant office equipment and absolute safety against possible attacks of safe-breakers.

The first board of directors comprised James H. Newton, Edwin L. Munn, Anderson Allen, Daniel H. Newton, John Delaney, Moses Newton, John C. Newton, James Ramage, George A. Clark, Joel S. Webber, Herman Stursburg, jr., Edward C. Rogers, Josephus Crafts, Frederick Taylor and George W. Millar. The first officers were James H. Newton, president, and Edwin L. Munn, cashier.

Few changes have been made in the personnel of the officiary of the Home National bank during the eighteen years of its successful business career. Mr. Newton, the first president, is still in that position. Mr. Munn was cashier from the date of organization until January, 1892, when he was succeeded by Fred F. Partridge, the present cashier and active manager of the bank, and who, in the capacity of teller, took the first deposit offered when the bank opened its doors for business in 1884. For three years previous to that time he was an employee in the City National bank.

The latest published report of the condition of the Home National bank shows a capital of $250,000, a surplus of $50,000, undivided profits, $42,815.69, and deposits, subject to check, amounting to $589,794.45; demand certificates, $21,160.57; aggregate resources, $1,008,598.68. In itself this statement is ample evidence of the solidity of the bank, and also is evidence of confidence in its management on the part of our business men.

The present directors of the Home National are James H. Newton, John Tilley, James Ramage, William Jolly, James S. Newton, George A. Clark, J. A. Sullivan, Oren D. Allyn, Seymour E. Gates, Lewis M. Gaylord and Fred F. Partridge.

The Park National Bank (No. 4703) of Holyoke was organized February 20, 1892, with $100,000 capital, by Edwin L. Munn, its first and present president, who was the principal organizer of the City National bank in 1879, and also of the Home National bank in 1884, he having been the first cashier of each of these institutions. The first directors of the Park National were Josephus Crafts, Edwin L. Munn, William F. Whiting, M. M. Belding, James T. Abbe, William H. Brooks and H. D. Bradburn. The first cashier, George W. Parker, formerly teller in the Home National bank, still serves as cashier of the Park National.

This bank, the youngest of our city's financial institutions, shows a healthful condition throughout the period of its history. It has a surplus of $50,000 and an undivided profit account of more than $3,500. Its deposit account aggregates more than $266,000, including time certificate deposits. The present directors are Edwin L. Munn, William H. Brooks, George A. Munn, Stephen A. Mahoney and George W. Parker.

The Holyoke Savings Bank, the oldest institution of its kind in the city, was incorporated February 21, 1855, by Jones S. Davis, Jonas Kendall, C. W. Blanchard, Albert Graves, Cyrus Frink, Thomas H. Kelt, Charles W. Ranlet, H. Hutchins, James K. Mills, R. G. Marsh, Warren Chapin, Gustavus Snow, Asa O. Colby and John C. Parsons and their associates. The first meeting of incorporators was held March 29, 1855, when Cyrus Frink was elected president; Otis Holmes, C. W. Blanchard and Jones S. Davis, vice-presidents; James K. Mills, secretary. Mr. Snow was appointed treasurer in April, 1856.

From the time of organization to the present the Holyoke Savings bank has been an important factor for good in the history of our city, and its managing officers always have been men of high character and unquestioned integrity. In the office of president Mr. Frink was succeeded in 1860 by Joel Russell, and

the latter, in turn, in 1884, by George W. Prentiss, the present incumbent. For several months in 1859-60 D. D. Crombie served as president. Mr. Snow served only one year as treasurer, 1855-6, and then was succeeded by Robert B. Johnson, during whose incumbency of the office the bank enjoyed a continuous and healthful growth. When he was appointed in 1866 the total desposit account aggregated $77,000, while the total assets amounted to $81,000, and the semi-annual dividends amounted to $1,300. The last dividend paid during his treasurership was $70,000, nearly the amount of deposit account in 1866. Now the depositors in the bank number about 11,000 persons, and the total assets amount to more than $4,552,000, the interest bearing deposit account being more than $4,280,000. Mr. Johnson died November 1, 1899, and was succeeded by his son, Charles W. Johnson, the present treasurer of the bank.

The present officers and trustees of the bank are as follows: George W. Prentiss, president; William Whiting, Robert Russell, W. A. Prentiss, vice-presidents; Charles W. Johnson, treasurer; A. G. Magna, secretary; M. H. Whitcomb, L. A. Taber, James A. Clough, Thomas A. Dillon, J. F. Sullivan, M. W. Prentiss, G. C. Gill, F. E. Nourse, F. A. Whiting, H. O. Hastings, William S. Loomis, C. H. Prentiss, James E. Delaney, D. H. Ives and W. S. Perkins, trustees.

The Mechanics' Savings Bank was incorporated March 12, 1872, by Roswell P. Crafts, Timothy Merrick, James H. Newton, Henry A. Chase, Augustus Stursberg, John Delaney, Stephen Holman and their associates. The first officers and trustees were James H. Newton, president; Timothy Merrick, John Delaney, Roswell P. Crafts, vice-presidents; C. B. Prescott, treasurer; Edward W. Chapin, secretary.

The bank began business May 20, 1872, and from that time it has been recognized as one of the safe and substantial financial institutions of our city. Its affairs of management always have been in prudent hands and it is looked upon as one of the permanent savings banks of the county. The present depositors number about five thousand persons, and the deposits aggregate more than $1,567,000. During its history about fifteen thousand

accounts have been opened. At the present time the total assets exceed $1,677,945.

The presidents of the bank have been James H. Newton, Timothy Merrick and Lemuel Sears, the latter having been elected in May, 1894. Mr. Prescott has been treasurer throughout the entire period of the bank's history.

The present officers and trustees are as follows: Lemuel Sears, president; Roswell P. Crafts, J. S. Webber, George H. Smith, vice-presidents; Charles B. Prescott, treasurer; Edward W. Chapin, secretary; Lemuel Sears, Roswell P. Crafts, J. S. Webber, George H. Smith, E. W. Chapin, J. S. McElwain, James Connor, C. W. Rider, E. P. Bagg, Hubbell P. Terry, A. W. Esleeck, Cornelius O'Leary, William H. Heywood, George F. Fowler, H. E. Gaylord, Arthur B. Chapin, trustees.

The Peoples' Savings Bank was incorporated March 19, 1885, by Anderson Allen, Moses Newton, James E. Delaney, Frederick Taylor, James Ramage, John E. Clark, John Tilley and their associates, for the purpose of carrying on a savings bank business in Holyoke in conformity with the laws of the state. The first officers were William Skinner, president; Anderson Allen, John E. Clark, James Ramage, vice-presidents; John J. Reardon, secretary; Frank H. Chamberlin, treasurer; J. C. Hubbard, George A. Clark, J. J. O'Connor, James H. Newton, Moses Newton, H. J. Frink, George H. Hills, John K. Judd, R. H. Seymour, John Tilley, D. H. Newton and H. K. Bird, jr., trustees.

Mr. Skinner was president of the bank until August 1, 1901, when he resigned and was succeeded by Mr. Tilley. Frank H. Chamberlain was appointed treasurer when the bank began business and has served in that capacity to the present time.

The Peoples' Savings bank has total assets of more than $1,166,000; deposit accounts aggregating over $1,220,000, and about 3,500 depositors. Its affairs are prudently managed and the institution has an enviable standing in the business community.

The present officers are John Tilley, president; James Ramage and John E. Clark, vice-presidents; A. L. Green, secretary;

Frank H. Chamberlin, treasurer; John Tilley, James Ramage, John E. Clark, J. C. Hubbard, J. A. Sullivan, A. L. Green, H. J. Frink, O. D. Allyn, D. H. Newton, J. D. Hardy, George A. Clark, Moses Newton, J. K. Judd, J. N. Hubbard, L. M. Gaylord and Seymour E. Gates, trustees.

Co-operative Banks.—In addition to the regular commercial and savings banks mentioned on preceding pages, some brief allusion may properly be made to the two co-operative banks of the city, neither of which are banks of deposit, yet enjoy certain powers given to institutions of that character and are under the supervision of the banking department of the commonwealth. Both are corporations of value in the business history of the city and are worthy of the public patronage.

The Holyoke Co-operative Bank was chartered July 24, 1880, and began business August 25 following, with an authorized capital of $1,000,000. The officers of this bank in 1901 are as follows: Charles L. Newcomb, president; Thomas W. Doyle, vice-president; Dwight O. Judd, secretary and treasurer; Thomas W. Doyle, James S. Lassiter, W. H. Bullard, S. B. Winchester, Thomas J. Tierney, J. H. Montgomery, John Hildreth, James Parfitt, jr., Thomas D. O'Brien and Frank J. Phelps, directors.

The City Co-operative Bank was organized July 1, 1889, chartered July 16, and began business July 23, 1889; authorized capital, $1,000,000. This bank was chartered by and always has been conducted in the especial interest of the French people of Holyoke. It is a safe, substantial concern, capably officered, and is worthy of the patronage of all who would avail themselves of its benefits. The officers for 1901 are Daniel Proulx, president; Joseph L. Laporte, vice-president; Pierre Bonvouloir, secretary and treasurer; A. F. Gingras, John St. John, Leon Laporte, Val. Moquin, O. E. Genest, S. J. Bonvouloir, A. J. N. Desmarais, L. T. Beaulieu and Joseph Masse, directors.

INDUSTRIAL HOLYOKE

The city of Holyoke owes its wonderful progress and prosperity during the last half century to the numerous manufactur-

ing establishments which have been built up along the line of the system of artificial water courses constructed by the Hadley Falls company and its successor corporation, the Holyoke Water Power company; and we may further say with equal truth that both Holyoke and the manufacturing concerns owe their existence to the construction and operation of the company's system. Previous to the preliminary purchases of land by George C. Ewing in 1846 and 1847 the locality now included within the

Crafts' Tavern

manufacturing district was hardly more than an agricultural region, with a few scattered factories of not more than ordinary importance along the river bank, while on the eleven hundred acre tract which comprised the company's ultimate purchase there were probably not more than a dozen or fifteen dwelling houses, occupied chiefly by farmers and the few employees of the mills. At that time the village settlement was situated on

the Northampton road (now the street of that name), where also was located the Ireland parish postoffice, one or two stores, as many small shops and the hotel, the latter under Landlord Crafts being perhaps the chief center of attraction in the town; and not even the commendable enterprise of the original Hadley Falls company had the effect to draw away the denizens of the settlement and locate them in the vicinity of the primitive wing dam and its little canal, which marked the first advance in Holyoke's industrial history.

The first Hadley Falls company was incorporated March 10, 1827, by John Chapin, Stephen Chapin, Warren Chapin and Alfred Smith, who were authorized by an act of the legislature to construct a wing dam on the river for the purpose of diverting the waters for manufacture of cotton and woolen goods, grain, wood, iron and other metals, in the town of West Springfield; and, further, the company was authorized to hold real and personal estate not exceeding the total value of $36,000. (In 1832 the amount was increased to $80,000). This was the real beginning of Holyoke's industrial history and development. The company, in accordance with its plans, caused the wing dam to be constructed not far from the site of the present old wooden dam, and extended it diagonally out into and up the river a sufficient distance to turn the waters into the little canal or raceway which the proprietors had built. Then the mills were erected, the grist mill, the sawmill, the cotton and woolen mill, and also the furnace for various manufactures of iron. One of these old structures is still standing and forms a part of the extensive works so long known as the Parsons Paper company's mill. In the course of time many of the rights of the pioneer company were transferred to the concern which immediately preceded the second Hadley Falls company, then were conveyed to that corporation and ultimately became part of the franchise and property of the Holyoke Water Power company.

Soon after 1845, when manufacturing capitalists were casting about for favorable locations for mill sites, the lower falls and rapids between South Hadley and West Springfield attracted considerable attention on account of the unusual natural

advantages offered by a fall in the river of sixty feet in a distance of less than a mile and one-half; but at this point on the east side several mills were in operation with others of less note on the west side, the former being fairly successful and the latter in an uncertain condition of prosperity. It was then, in 1846, that George C. Ewing came to the locality as member and representative of the firm of Fairbanks & Co., of New York, and certain New England capitalists, and began acquiring mill and property rights, having in contemplation the construction of a dam across the river and a system of water power canals on the level lands on the west side. In March, 1847, the enterprising agent secured deeds conveying to his principals thirty-seven acres of land, and also secured the rights and franchises of the old Hadley Falls company.

About this time, it is said, a change was made in the character of the purchasing company and an incorporation act was secured for the proprietors, the capital being $4,000,000. Officers were chosen and Mr. Ewing still retained his former position as land agent. Early in January, 1848, the Fairbanks interest was withdrawn from the concern, Mr. Ewing resigned and was succeeded by A. C. Rising, and in April following the company was succeeded by the Hadley Falls company.

The Hadley Falls company was incorporated by an act of the legislature, approved April 28, 1848, naming as corporators Thomas H. Perkins, George W. Lyman, Edmund Dwight and their associates, who were authorized to construct and maintain a dam across Connecticut river and one or more locks and canals in connection with said dam; to create water power for manufacturing purposes, and to hold real estate of the value of not more than $500,000, exclusive of improvements. The authorized capital of the company was $4,000,000.

Following the incorporation and organization, the company became legally possessed of the property rights and franchises of its predecessor, and then, through its managing officers and land agents, purchased additional lands to the aggregate of 1,100 acres for the purpose of carrying into effect the grand system of water power development outlined by its engineers and pro-

moters. The work of constructing the dam was begun at once, and was carried forward with such vigor that on November 19, 1848, the structure was finished and the gates were closed that the basin might be filled with water. In every part the work apparently had been well done, yet the engineers evidently had miscalculated the immensity of pressure upon the dam, and about the middle of the afternoon of the same day it gave way and was swept down the river, a huge wreck on a mighty, rushing tide.

The dam had cost the company $75,000, but its loss had not the effect to dishearten the investors in the enterprise, while the wise heads who from the outset had declared that the undertaking was impossible of successful accomplishment found temporary relief and gratification in their oft-repeated "I told you so." However, without unnecessary delay the company again set to work and built a new and stronger dam, at an expense of $150,000, and on October 22, 1849, the basin again was filled with water; this time with entirely satisfactory results, for the old structure still stands. It was materially strengthened in 1869-70 by the construction of a powerful supporting "apron," and with subsequent incidental repairs answered every requirement of the company until 1900, when the present massive stone dam was completed.

But in addition to building two dams and constructing an efficient system of water power canals for manufacturing purposes, the Hadley Falls company performed other good works, notably that in establishing a water supply for the "New City" and laying main and service pipes throughout the settled portion of the village. This was done in 1848 and the two years next following, and from that time until 1882 the Holyoke water supply for fire and domestic purposes was received from the company's reservoir on the elevated lands about seventy-five rods from the end of the dam. However, notwithstanding the ultimate success of the company's efforts in accomplishing all that was undertaken during the early years of its history, it was doomed to an unfortunate and premature end; not through mismanagement or miscalculation as to power rights to be leased,

but rather to the financial depression which swept over the country in 1857 and left in its wake the ruins of thousands of business enterprises. Yielding, therefore, to the inevitable, the company became insolvent and its affairs were placed in the hands of receivers. Then was organized a new company—the Holyoke Water Power company—the corporation which has been a chief controlling factor in establishing Holyoke's reputation as one of the leading industrial cities of the whole country.

The Holyoke Water Power company was incorporated by a special act of the legislature, approved January 31, 1859, with $60,000 capital (increased to $1,200,000 by act of March 1, 1889), by William Appleton, George W. Lyman, Francis Bacon, Augustus H. Fiske and their associates, "for the purpose of upholding and maintaining the dam across the Connecticut river constructed by the Hadley Falls company, and one or more locks and canals in connection with said dam."

Upon the organization of the company it superseded in all respects the Hadley Falls company and was subrogated to all the rights, powers and privileges of the latter under its charter. Like the predecessor company the new organization was and still is to all intents and purposes a foreign corporation, its stock being owned largely by non-resident investors, but in the course of time about one-twelfth of the stock has come into the ownership of citizens of Holyoke, while a greater number of shares are owned in Springfield; but despite the fact that the corporation cannot be regarded as local, its managing officers and directors always have shown a considerate regard for local interests and almost every worthy cause has found in it a liberal benefactor. At least one church society of each of six or more denominations has been given land for a house of worship and at least six park sites have likewise been donated to the public use through the generosity of the directors, while the land on which stands our splendid library building was a voluntary gift from the same source. Every canal bridge in the city, with possibly two exceptions, was originally built by this company or its predecessor.

At the same time the company has been ever mindful of its own interests and of its lessee mill proprietors and their inter-

ests. The original system of canals was ample for the time of the Hadley Falls company, but under the new management the water ways have been extended and on occasion widened and deepened to meet the ever increasing demand for power rights and privileges. It is not considered within the proper scope of our chapter to detail at length the numerous changes made in the canal system during the ownership of the company, and it will suffice to state that the power furnished always has been ample for the demands of the time, and none of the lessees have had cause for complaint at the hands of the lessor.

About 1868 the dam was found to leak in places as a result of age and the constant action of the water, and to remedy the defects and give added strength to the structure a considerable outlay of money was made in building an "apron." Again, in 1895, the company having been highly prosperous in preceding years, it was deemed wise to construct a new dam of sufficient height and strength to meet the requirements of the mill owners for years to come. Accordingly, in that year the present solid masonry dam was begun and the work was completed January 3, 1900; and as a result the Holyoke Water Power company now has one of the largest and most substantial structures of its kind in the world. The dam itself, with immediate appurtenances, contains 50,000 yards of solid masonry, is thirty feet in height, 97.95 feet above tide water at Saybrook, and was built at an expense to the company of $530,000. It is located about one hundred feet below the old dam of 1849, and between them the bed of the river is gradually, yet surely, filling with earth deposits; and when this shall have been accomplished by the action of the water alone the new massive stone dam will stand for ages invulnerable against the pressure from above.

During the period of its history, few residents of Holyoke have been directly connected with the management of the company's business. James M. Sickman has been in the company's employment for nearly thirty years, in the capacity of civil engineer and also as land agent. As engineer he succeeded William A. Chase, who became treasurer of the company. Edward S. Waters, the present treasurer, has been in the office in this city about fifteen years.

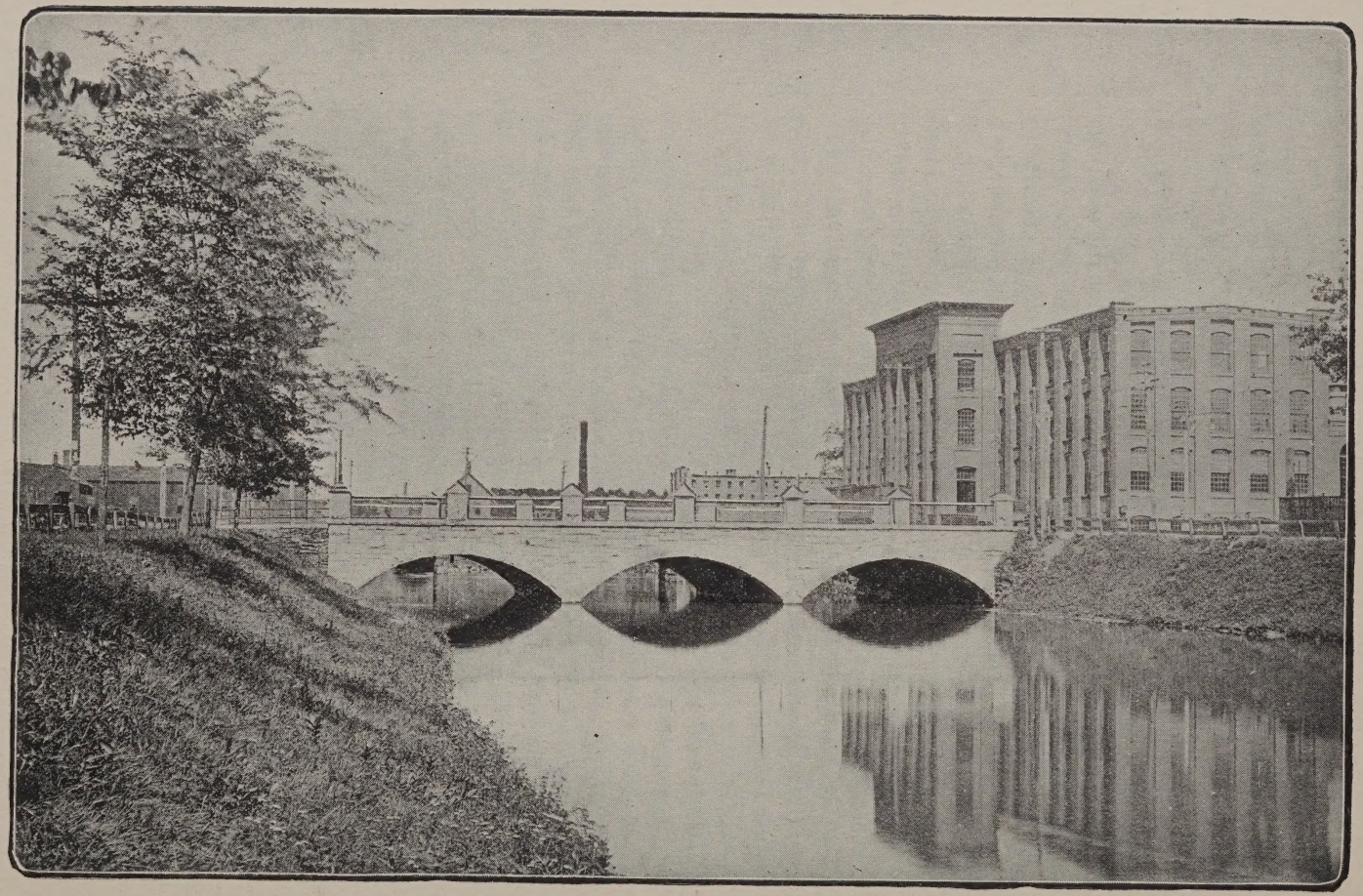
By an act of the legislature, passed and approved March 3, 1873, the Holyoke Water Power company was authorized to manufacture gas and sell the same to the city for illuminating purposes; and at a later date the company installed machinery and established an electric lighting plant both for illuminating and power purposes.

The complete system of canals established by the company in carrying forward its great enterprise during the last forty-five years is almost too well understood by every Hampden county citizen to require a detailed description in this chapter. On the South Hadley side of the river (where the company acquired ownership by purchase of the stock of the "Proprietors of Locks and Canals on Connecticut River," this action having been confirmed by the legislature, February 18, 1884), the water is fed into a short canal to supply power to several large factories, and the balance of the river's flow is admitted into a more elaborate canal system on the Holyoke side through thirteen gateways, which are operated by a water wheel set in the tower at the end of the dam.

A contemporary writer, in describing the canal system on the Holyoke side of the river, says: "At the inshore end of the bulkhead is a stone lock for the passage of boats. The receiving canal is 1,013 feet long, 140 feet wide at the bottom and four feet wider at the surface, is stoned on either side, as is nearly the entire system, forming a right angle with the dam and running from it nearly southeast. From its eastern end the waters are turned, in a southwesterly direction, into the upper level canal which, fifteen feet deep, continues a mile and a quarter in a straight line, at first as wide as the supply canal, but narrowing at the rate of one foot in width for every 100 feet in length, and ending with a width of 80 feet. Parallel with this canal, and of like dimensions, distant 400 feet easterly, and 24 feet lower, runs the second level canal,[1] into which fall the waters of the former, after flowing through the mills and moving their machinery."

"From the north end of this waste-water canal its waters

[1]The second level canal is also fed directly from the supply canal in case the draft of water from the upper level is not sufficient to operate the mills on the second level.



The Third Level and the Riverside Paper Co.'s Mill

are carried into another canal which runs easterly and at length southerly, following the contour of the river, and ultimately flowing into the third level canal projected from the south end of the second level canal first named, thus forming a canal border about two miles long, whose waste waters, after service in the riparian mills, fall into the Connecticut. Fortunately, in the topographical features of the adjacent lands, this magnificent water system was wisely supplemented by a system of streets running parallel with and at right angles to the adjacent canals, with only such modifications of the plan as the changes in direction of the riparian canal rendered necessary. The upper and second level canals traversing the busiest portion of the city are crossed by streets at intervals of 1,000 feet, while half-way between each two of these streets are others without bridges. The large territory embraced within the boundaries of the water system is practically a level plain, but from the upper level canal westward the ground rises rapidly, attaining nearly its greatest average height about 830 feet from the center of the first level canal."

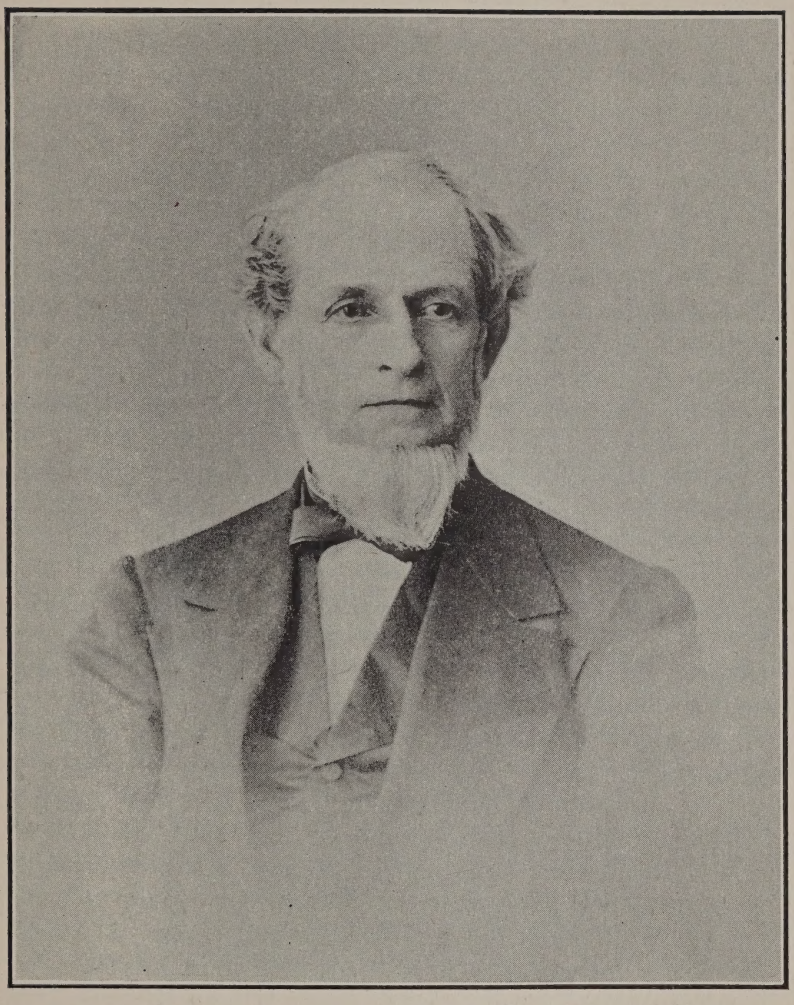
During the period of their history the water power companies have disposed of much of the land comprising their extensive purchases (to which reference has been made) and especially such portions thereof as were not adjacent to the canal system. In such cases the fee in the land was conveyed, but along the canals, on tracts which can be utilized for manufacturing purposes, the conveyances are in the nature of perpetual leases, with reversion to the company on non-fulfillment by the lessee of the conditions of the lease. The lessor furnishes land and guaranteed water power for which an annual rental is paid. Mill powers are granted for moderate consideration, and are far less expensive to proprietors than steam power for operating machinery. The responsibility for failure in water power rests upon the company, and thus relieved of hazard in this respect and being provided with ample power for all manufacturing purposes, Holyoke industrial enterprises have been able to compete with those of the larger commercial centers and still hold an advantage in their own favor.

Having referred at length to the history of the water power companies and also to the great works accomplished by them during the last half century, it is proper that something be said concerning the grand results achieved in the establishment of industrial enterprises along these now famous artificial canals, all of which have been combined to make Holyoke one of the greatest manufacturing cities of the land. In this connection, however, it may be stated that not all the manufacturing concerns which are located within the company's purchase take mill power from the canals, the exceptions being noted about as follows: The Dean Steam Pump Co., the United States Envelope Co. (formerly the Holyoke Envelope Co.), the National Blank Book Co., the Smith & White Mfg. Co., the American Pad and Paper Co., the Hampden Glazed Paper and Card Co., the Holyoke Thread Co., the Merrick Lumber Co., the Casper Ranger Lumber Yard and Planing Mill, the Conn. Valley Lumber Co., and possibly others.

According to accepted authority the first manufactory on the line of the canals was that founded in 1853 by J. C. Parsons and others, and which in allusion to him became known as the Parsons Paper company. In the years immediately following 1853 other proprietors began to come to the locality, and having become satisfied that the water power canal system had passed the experimental stage and become an assured success, they opened negotiations and almost invariably secured leases. In 1854 the Lyman mills were founded, and eventually became one of the largest cotton manufacturing concerns in all New England. However, having recourse to a record of Holyoke industries compiled from the water power company's books, the writer is enabled to furnish a reasonably correct list of the manufacturing companies[1] started on the canals, noting them in chronological order, with some brief data relating to the date of incorporation, capital stock and occasional allusion to the personnel of the management:

The Parsons Paper Co., inc. 1853; capital, $360,000; E. P.

[1]The manufacturers of Holyoke by a fair majority of numbers have expressed a desire that their industries be not "written up" in this chapter, hence the writer has deferred to the wishes of the proprietors in making only a brief and necessary allusion to each establishment.



Joseph C. Parsons

Bagg, agent and treasurer; Charles P. Randall, secretary. The Lyman Mills, est. January 1, 1854; capital, $1,470,000; Theophilus Parsons, treas.; Ernest Lovering, agent; Chas. Merriam, superintendent. The Holyoke Paper Co., est. 1857; nominal capital, $500,000. Prentiss Wire Mill, est. 1857 (now George W. Prentiss & Co.). Holyoke Machine Co., org. 1862; capital, $300,000; N. H. Whitten, pres.; Chas. R. Holman, treas.; H. J. Frink, gen. mgr. Hadley Thread Co., est. 1863; capital, $600,000 (now known as Hadley Co.). Beebe, Webber & Co., est. 1863; mfrs. of woolen goods. Merrick Thread Co., est. 1865; capital, $750,000. Whiting Paper Co., org. 1865; nominal capital, $300,000; Wm. Whiting, pres.; Wm. F. Whiting, treas. and agent; S. R. Whiting, sec'y. Germania Woolen Mill (known as Germania Mills), org. 1865; capital, $150,000; Herman Stursberg, pres.; Wm. Stursberg, treas.; Wm. Mauer, sec. and mgr. Riverside Paper Co., org. 1866; capital, $500,000. Franklin Paper Co., org. 1866; nominal capital, $60,000; James Ramage, pres.; John Ramage, vice-pres.; Chas. W. Ramage, treas. Valley Paper Co., org. 1866; capital, $200,000; Geo. F. Fowler, pres.; Chas. B. Prescott, treas.; T. Henry Spencer, asst. treas.; Alfred H. Morton, supt. Henry Seymour Cutlery Co., org. 1869; capital, $25,000. Holyoke Warp Co., org. 1869; capital, $60,000; J. L. Burlingame, treas. Springfield Blanket Co., org. 1870; capital, $150,000. Crocker Paper Co. (Crocker Mfg. Co.), org. 1871; capital $300,000. Massasoit Paper Co., org. 1872; capital, $300,000. Beebe & Holbrook Co., org. 1872; mfrs. of paper. Excelsior Paper Co., org. 1873; A. W. Hoffman, George H. Smith, James L. Hodge, proprietors. Newton Paper Co., org. 1873; capital, $72,000; Moses Newton, pres.; James Ramage, vice-pres.; Geo. H. Clark, treas. Farr Alpaca Co., org. 1873; capital, $400,000; Edward W. Chapin, pres.; Joseph Metcalf, treas. Massachusetts Screw Co., org. 1873; capital, $50,000; D. H. Newton, pres.; James S. Newton, treas. Connor Bros.' Woolen Mill, est. 1874; mfrs. of coat, cloak and dress goods. William Skinner Silk Mill (now Wm. Skinner Mfg. Co.), est. 1874; inc. 1889; capital, $100,000. National Blank Book Co., org. 1875; capital, $150,000; Wm. Whiting, pres.; F. B. Towne, treas. Albion Paper Co., org.

1878; capital, $60,000. Wauregan Paper Co., org. 1879. Dean Steam Pump Co., org. 1879; capital, $300,000. Chemical Paper Co., org. 1880; capital, $250,000; James H. Newton, pres.; James W. Kirkham, vice-pres.; Moses Newton, treas.; E. B. Fiske, sec'y. Nonotuck Paper Co., org. 1880; capital, $155,000. Holyoke Envelope Co. (now United States Envelope Co.), org. 1880. Whitmore Mfg. Co., org. 1881; capital, $75,000; Wm. Whiting, pres.; F. D. Heywood, treas. Coburn Trolley Track Co., inc. 1888; capital, $100,000; Lemuel Coburn, pres.; A. A. Coburn, treas. American Pad and Paper Co., inc. 1888; capital, $75,000; Geo. M. Holbrook, pres.; Thos. W. Holley, treas.; G. W. Brainerd, sec'y. D. Mackintosh & Sons Co., inc. 1888; capital, $100,000; Donald Mackintosh, pres.; John G. Mackintosh, treas.; Chas. E. Mackintosh, agt. Connecticut River Paper Co., org. 1888; capital, $200,000. McCallum Constable Hosiery Co., org. 1888. Parsons Paper Co. No. 2, org. 1888; capital, $300,000. Powers Paper Co., org. 1889. Holyoke Hydrant and Iron Works, org. 1890; capital, $60,000. Chadwick Plush Co., org. 1891. Norman Paper Co., org. 1891; capital, $300,000. George C. Gill Paper Co., inc. 1891 (successor to Winona Paper Co.); capital, $100,000. Hampden Glazed Paper and Card Co., inc. 1891; capital, $56,000; George R. Dickinson Paper Co., org. 1892; capital, $150,000. Ford Bit Co., inc. 1892; capital, $21,900; N. H. Whitten, pres.; R. C. Winchester, treas.; O. D. Allyn, mgr. Goetz Silk Mfg. Co., inc. 1893; capital, $35,000; David Goetz, pres.; Samuel McQuaid, treas.; S. A. Mahoney, sec'y.

In connection with that which is stated in preceding paragraphs it is proper to mention the fact that the Parsons Paper Mill No. 1, the Crocker Mfg. Co., the Albion Paper Co., the Nonotuck Paper Co., the George C. Gill Paper Co., the Norman Paper Co., the Riverside Paper Co., the Conn. River Paper Co., the Holyoke Paper Co., the Linden Paper Co., the George R. Dickinson Paper Co., the Beebe & Holbrook Co., the Massasoit Paper Mfg. Co. and the Wauregan Paper Co. are now absorbed by the vast corporation known as the American Writing Paper Co.; and also that the Merrick Thread Co. and the Hadley Co. are in like manner absorbed by the American Thread Co. It is

not the purpose of these greater corporations—commonly called "trusts"—to close any of the factories, but rather to systematize and regulate their operation, and thus reduce the cost of placing their product on the market.

In addition to the corporations engaged in industrial pursuits which are already mentioned, we may with propriety note the names of still other companies and proprietors likewise engaged, all of whom have been contributing factors, past or present, in the prosperity of our city. Among the stock companies there may be noted the Baker-Vawter Co., incorporated 1895; capital, $200,000; manufacturers of loose leaf books; the Barlow Mfg. Co., inc. 1895 (J. S. Webber, prest., and Lewis E. Bellows, treas. and mgr.), mfrs. of nickel and brass display fixtures; the Buchanan & Bolt Wire Co., incorporated 1897 (capital $50,000); the Conn. Valley Lumber Co., incorporated 1898 (capital $500,000); the Ely Lumber Co., incorporated 1898 (capital $40,000); the Essex Paper Co., inc. 1895; the Eureka Ruling and Binding Co., inc. 1890; the Goddard Machine Co., inc. 1899; the Holyoke Automobile Co., inc. 1900; the Holyoke Bar Co., inc. 1889; the Holyoke Belting Co., inc. 1891 (capital $40,000); the Holyoke Plush Co., inc. 1899, and succeeding the Chadwick Plush Co.; the Holyoke Thread Co., inc. 1900; Lynch Bros.'s Brick Co., inc. 1896; the Merrick Lumber Co., inc. 1884 (capital $75,000); the Smith & White Mfg. Co., inc. 1891 (capital $50,000); the Xylite Lubricating Co., inc. 1897.

And still further we may mention other proprietors, among them the Coglan Steam Boiler Works; the City foundry; J. & W. Jolly Machine shops; B. F. Perkins & Son, machinists; Charles Koegel & Son, machinists; the Westphal Machine Co.; the Novelty Machine Co.; the Harmon & Derichs Architectural Iron Works; Walsh's Holyoke Steam Boiler Works; Higgins & Co., brass founders; the Holyoke Broom Co. and the H. E. Smith Co., broom mfrs.; the Holyoke Lead Pipe Co.; the White Paper Box Co.; John T. F. MacDonnell, the Sinclair Mfg. Co.; the Smith Tablet Co., and the Whiting Street Ruling and Stationery Co., mfrs. of paper pads and tablets; the Taylor-Atkins Paper Co.; the Chase & Cooledge Co.; the Holyoke Trunk Mfg. Co., and

others perhaps equally worthy of mention, but whose names cannot now be recalled. These manufacturers, with those who preceded them in earlier years, have been all-important factors in the industrial history of our city.

It has been estimated that quite one-third of Holyoke's population is employed in the mills and factories of the city; that the aggregate nominal capital of the producing corporations exceeds $12,000,000, and that the monthly pay rolls aggregate more than $600,000 in all branches of manufacture. The carrying trade is chiefly done by the Boston and Maine and the Holyoke and Westfield railroads, and in facilitating the loading of goods for shipment these companies have laid branch tracks to the works of nearly all the large manufacturing companies.

HOLYOKE BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Section two of the by-laws of the association reads as follows: "The objects of this association are for the purpose of promoting the interests of the mercantile and manufacturing business of Holyoke, to advance and elevate the commercial interest and business connections of our merchants, and to broaden and strengthen business relations among them, and by all legitimate means work unitedly for the material prosperity of our city."

The association referred to in the preceding paragraph certainly has been loyal to the above declaration of purpose, and for the five years of its history has proven itself one of the best and most useful institutions of our city, and one whose aims always have been for the public welfare, free from any favor or prejudice. An association of the same character previously had existed for several years, but for some unexplained cause its affairs were not prosperous, hence, in 1897, it was succeeded by the organization of which we write. The present body has a total membership of about 200 business men.

The Holyoke Business Men's association was formed January 22, 1897, at a meeting of citizens held in the G. A. R. hall, and from that time it has been a controlling factor for good in local history. Its affairs and management are vested in a board

of directors, at first comprising six members and the officers, but later increased to twelve members. The first board of directors comprised Albert Steiger, W. J. Mills, John Tilley, Thomas J. Carmody, Otho R. Brown, Marciene H. Whitcomb and the officers for 1897-8.

The succession of officers of the association is as follows:

1897-8—M. P. Conway, president; Alexander McAuslan vice-president; A. E. Dickinson, treasurer; E. P. Ford, secretary.

1898-9—James J. Curran, president; Alexander McAuslan, vice-president; Otho R. Brown, treasurer; Thomas F. McCabe, secretary.

1899-1900—James J. Curran, president; William J. Mills, vice-president; Otho R. Brown, treasurer; Thomas Stansfield, secretary.

1900-1901—Marciene H. Whitcomb, president; William J. Mills, vice-president; G. E. Russell, treasurer; Thomas Stansfield, secretary.

1901-02—M. H. Whitcomb, president; John Tilley, vice-president; G. E. Russell, treasurer; Thomas Stansfield, secretary.

Officers for 1902.—M. H. Whitcomb, president; John Tilley, vice-president; G. E. Russell, treasurer; Thomas Stansfield, secretary; M. J. Laporte, Casper Ranger, M. P. Conway, Albert Steiger, H. A. Collings, Thomas J. Carmody, Alexander McAuslan, J. J. Curran, J. J. Sullivan, Hugh McLean, A. Davis, M. J. Bowler, directors.

CEMETERIES

In the early history of Ireland parish many of the settlers whose households were invaded by the hand of death carried the bodies for burial to the old churchyard ground in the mother parish in West Springfield. After the Third parish had become well peopled the settlers set apart "God's acre" in their own community, and thus about the year 1749 the old Third parish burial ground was laid out and was dedicated to the public use. At a later period it appears to have passed into the control of the First Baptist society, and so remained until about 1855, when the land was conveyed to the town. In 1882 its custody was assumed by the Third Parish Burial Ground association, but in the

meantime other cemeteries had been opened, hence interments in the old grounds became less frequent in after years.

Forestdale Cemetery.—At a town meeting held in October, 1860, the inhabitants of Holyoke voted an appropriation of $1,500 for the purchase of a tract of land to be used for burial purposes. On November 1 of the same year a number of prominent citizens incorporated and organized Forestdale Cemetery association, the officers and trustees of which were as follows: Jones S. Davis, president; Porter Underwood, secretary and treasurer; Jones S. Davis, Porter Underwood, J. M. Whitten, Henry Wheeler, Edwin H. Ball, S. Stewart Chase, S. J. Weston, Austin Ely, Asa O. Colby, S. H. Walker, trustees; Robert B. Johnson and Chester Crafts, auditors.

This association, with frequent changes in the personnel of its board of officers and trustees, has continued to the present time. The grounds purchased comprised a little less than twenty-five acres. The work of laying out the tract was begun in the early part of 1862, and on June 22 the cemetery was dedicated with formal ceremony, the leading participants in the services being Prof. Voss of Amherst college, George C. Ewing, on behalf of the trustees, and Rev. Roswell Foster.

The present officers of the association are Henry A. Chase, president; Charles W. Johnson, secretary and treasurer; Henry A. Chase, William S. Loomis, L. F. Heyward, W. H. Abbott, Dwight O. Judd, C. E. Ball, H. B. Lawrence, A. L. Shumway, William H. Heywood and Henry O. Hastings, trustees; L. F. Heyward and W. G. Twing, auditors; W. S. Loomis, superintendent; F. G. Bartlett, sexton.

St. Jerome's Cemetery (Roman Catholic) was purchased and laid out for burial purposes in 1864. It comprises twelve acres of land on St. Jerome avenue and adjoins Forestdale cemetery.

The French Roman Catholic Cemetery, four acres in extent, situated on what is known as Granby plains, was opened in 1875. This tract is outside the city limits, yet the cemetery, to all intents and purposes, is a local institution.

Cavalry Cemetery, on Northampton street (south) adjoining the old Baptist burial ground, is another institution of the

Catholic church, and was consecrated March 20, 1882, by Rt. Rev. Bishop O'Reilly. The grounds, fourteen acres in extent, were laid out under the supervision of A. B. Tower, civil engineer.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY

All that is most precious in our modern civilization is preserved to a community by its churches, or at least by the religious life that is fostered by its churches, if William M. Evarts spoke truth when he said "One might as well expect our land to keep its climate, its fertility, its salubrity, and its beauty, were the globe loosened from the hand which holds it in its orbit, as to count upon the preservation of the delights for a people cast loose from religion."

Although Holyoke is so like a western city in its rapid growth and in the free, democratic character of its people, it still possesses all the distinctive characteristics of a New England community. One of these is the fact, so frequently recognized in this part of the country, that the society of the place is divided pretty closely on church lines. To be sure, there are many clubs and associations and other organizations for social and benevolent purposes, in which no church lines are drawn or thought of, but outside of these there is a strong tendency to let the acquaintanceships formed at church and church gatherings suffice for all purposes.

This condition of things is helped by the fact that nearly all the people are busy workers in one field or another, and the further fact that there is no exclusive, aristocratic set in society. The richest people are unostentatious and democratic in the best sense.

The only church in Holyoke that has passed its hundredth birthday is the First Congregational, or the Church on the Hill, as it is called. This society celebrated its centennial in 1899, while the First Baptist comes but four years later.

The peculiar manner in which the town was settled causes the unusual phenomenon of finding both the First Congregational and the First Baptist churches situated quite outside of the center of the city. Both of these churches were organized

when the territory was only a farming country and part of the town of West Springfield. Afterwards, when the water power of the Connecticut began to be developed, the center of population changed to the river banks, and as the town grew it demanded a Second Congregational and a Second Baptist church.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The first religious society to be organized within the borders of the present city of Holyoke was first called the "Third Church

The old First Congregational Church

of West Springfield," or popularly the church in "Ireland Parish," until it finally became the First Congregational church of Holyoke.

It was on the fourth day of December, 1799, that the following eleven persons banded themselves together to form this church of Jesus Christ: Joseph Rogers, Jonathan Clough, Amos Allen, John Miller, Titus Morgan, Glover Street, Timothy Clough, Experience Morgan, Lucas Morgan, Betsy Morgan, Nathan Stephens.

The first deacons were Joseph Rogers and Amos Allen, and the first year five new members were received. On account of a division of sentiment in the parish the church had no pastor of their own for twenty-nine years. The first church building erected was situated about one-half mile south of the present site of the First Baptist church. This was built about 1792 and was used by the Congregationalists and Baptists jointly. It was moved north in 1796 to what is now the Alexander Day place, and was extensively repaired in 1812, never having been properly finished before.

Rev. Thomas Rand, a Baptist, filled the pastor's place for both denominations for nearly twenty-five years, until, in 1826, the two societies felt strong enough to separate, the Congregationalists numbering about eighty members. The Baptists withdrew and left their brethren in possession of the church building. In 1828 Rev. Stephen Hayes came to labor in the parish and remained five years, and though he was not installed, he filled the place as first Congregational minister in Holyoke. On the tenth of December, 1834, a new meeting house, costing $1,700, was dedicated, and on the same day Rev. Hervey Smith was installed as the first settled pastor. It is an interesting fact that the minister himself was the largest contributor toward the cost of the church. He continued in the pastorate for eight years and resigned in 1841 on account of ill health, never taking another church, although he lived till 1877.

The next pastor was Rev. Gideon Dana of South Amherst. Mr. Dana was installed February 24, 1841, and after a stormy and unfortunate pastorate of only three years he resigned in March, 1844. Mr. Dana died in 1872. He was followed in the office of pastor by Simeon Miller, a man who is still recalled and loved by all the older members of the church. Mr. Miller came direct from the Andover seminary, and after preaching one year he was ordained and installed May 7, 1846, and continued in the office until February 9, 1870. In 1844 the church was enabled to terminate its connection with the Home Missionary society, on account of the growth of the population at the settlement near the river, but when, in 1849, the Second Congregational church

was organized in the more thickly settled part of the town, the first church suffered some loss, so that at the close of Mr. Miller's pastorate the membership was twenty per cent. smaller than at its beginning. On Mr. Miller's retirement Rev. Charles E. Cooledge served the church until October, 1872, but was not installed. Rev. Theodore L. Day was ordained and installed December 18, 1872, but served as pastor only a year and a half. Then Rev. Charles L. Walker acted as pastor for about two years, and now followed a period of severe trial, during which time the pulpit was supplied for brief periods by a number of men. Among these were Professor J. H. Sawyer, Rev. S. W. Clark, and Rev. S. J. Mundy. In 1882 a call was given to Rev. E. N. Munroe, and he was installed May 31, of that year, his pastorate extending only two years. The council which dismissed Mr. Munroe took advantage of the situation, known to exist, and gave the church the following advice: "The ministers and delegates from the sister churches respectfully urge the First church of Holyoke to consider the probable advantage to the cause of religion that would follow, of abandoning any bequests that might hinder them in such action were they entirely to reorganize this church and parish, and transplant themselves nearer their city's growth. We do fully believe that by such a step great gain would come, both to the life of this church and to the spiritual interest of the residents in this locality."

This advice caused the question to be agitated, but it was three years before anything definite was done in regard to moving nearer to the center of population. On February 15, 1887, a committee was appointed to procure plans for a new meeting house, and soon after a lot was purchased on the corner of Pleasant and Hampden streets. A chapel was built and dedicated December 16, 1887, and occupied for more than six years.

Rev. Henry Hyde was called to the pastorate in 1885, beginning his duties the first of June and serving the church three years. This covered the time of the removal and was thus an eventual period. Mr. Hyde's successor was Rev. George W. Winch, the present efficient pastor, who was installed September 1, 1888.

In 1892 the church had become so large that the chapel was much too small, and the work of erecting the main structure was entered on and pushed so rapidly that the house was dedicated April 11, 1894. It is now one of the principal public buildings in that section of the city, and the society is in a most flourishing condition.

THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

This church was organized May 24, 1849, by the following eighteen persons: William S. Bosworth, Laura Ann Johnson, Lucius Morton, Harvey King, Nancy C. Morton, Sarah B. King, Elbridge G. Pierce, Isaac Osgood, Charles N. Ingalls, Hannah Thorndike, Hannah A. Ingalls, Ambrose Snow, Julia A. Giddings, Mary Snow, Dianna M. Quint, Glark G. Pease, William J. Johnson, Margarette Watson.

The first pastor was Rev. Asa C. Pierce, who was installed September 20, 1849. Mr. Pierce is described by one of his congregation as the best man he ever saw, but on account of impaired health he was obliged to resign his position in 1851. During the first months the society worshiped in the school house near the first level canal, but soon moved to the large brick school house on Chestnut street. In November, 1850, another move was made to Perkins hall, on High street, afterward known as Exchange hall. After the resignation of Mr. Pierce the church remained nearly two years without a settled pastor, but during this time the people were brave enough to set to work to build a house of worship. The site chosen was the northeast corner of High and Dwight streets, the most central location that could be selected, and the church then built remained a prominent landmark of the city many years. The corner-stone was laid September 1, 1852, and the house was dedicated July 27, 1853. During the time of its building the society called a new pastor, and Rev. Richard Knight was installed April 20, 1853. The new house of worship cost twelve thousand dollars; its dimensions were 63 by 102 feet; the height of the spire, 176 feet; it would accommodate 800 in the main room and 300 in the chapel. The local paper claims that it was one of the finest churches in Western Massachusetts. This building continued to be the

church home of this society until 1885, and many people now living remember it with interest and pride. Mr. Knight resigned the pastorate March 29, 1855, and on November 8, of the same year, Rev. James B. R. Walker was installed in his place.

In 1857 the church had increased to only sixty-nine members, but in 1858, a year memorable for religious activity throughout the land, eighty-seven additions were made. In the report of the annual meeting of the church, in January, 1863, it is announced that "nine of the members of the church have gone to the war."

Mr. Walker resigned February 7, 1864, and was succeeded by Rev. Lucius R. Eastman, jr., who was installed August 30, 1865. Mr. Eastman and all the subsequent pastors are still living. In 1866 a new organ was purchased at a cost of $3,000, and the pastor was especially active in raising the money for it.

After only two years' service Mr. Eastman resigned to the regret of all, to accept a call to Somerville, and on December 4, 1867, Rev. John L. R. Trask was ordained and installed pastor, having just graduated from the Andover Theological seminary. During this pastorate, which lasted fifteen years, the church had a steady growth, the number added in 1870 being ninety-two, and in 1879 seventy-seven were admitted. The membership increased during Dr. Trask's service from 163 to 405. In the fall of 1881 it was voted to secure plans for a new church, and the work of raising funds was begun with great zeal. Dr. Trask was very active in this and other labors connected with the church, but was obliged by ill health to give up work and take a year's rest. Not having fully recovered by the following fall, he resigned November 23, 1882, to the great sorrow of the church and society. Dr. Trask is now the well-known pastor of Memorial church, Springfield.

On March 19, 1883, a call was extended to Rev. M. W. Stryker, of Ithaca, N. Y., who is now Dr. Stryker, president of Hamilton college. Dr. Stryker was installed May 17, 1883, and filled the office of pastor for two years, when he accepted a call to the Fourth Presbyterian church of Chicago.

An important move was made when the society bought a lot on the corner of High and Appleton streets for a new house

of worship. The old site was too small for a new church and was, moreover, too near the center of business, but the society should have gone away from High street, since the new location, where stands the present church, is, to-day, surrounded with the noise and bustle incident to the busiest street in the city. The new church was dedicated January 29, 1885, the cost of land, building, organ and furniture being $104,000.

After the resignation of Dr. Stryker the church secured the services of Rev. William H. Hubbard, of Concord, N. H., but after serving a year without being settled, Dr. Hubbard decided to accept a call to the First Presbyterian church of Auburn, N. Y., where he is still laboring. The present efficient and well beloved pastor, Dr. Edward A. Reed, was called November 5, 1886, and was installed December 28 of the same year. Dr. Reed was formerly pastor of the First church in Springfield, and also of the Collegiate Dutch Reformed church of New York.

An important department of the activities of the Second Congregational church is the work in South Holyoke, long known as Grace chapel. This was started as a Sunday school as early as 1879, by the young men of Mr. J. S. McElwain's class. A building was erected on Main street and good missionary work was done in it for ten years, mainly for the children. But in 1891 preaching services on Sunday were begun, and next year Rev. A. W. Remington was engaged as pastor. The work grew under Mr. Remington and he was mainly instrumental in securing funds for the erection of a small church building on the corner of Cabot and Race streets. Here the work is still prospering. Mr. Remington resigned in 1898 and was succeeded by Franklin P. Reinhold, who has also recently resigned to take a church in Windsor Locks, Conn. For many years Mr. Joseph A. Skinner was superintendent of Grace Sunday school and was very instrumental in furthering the movement.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

On the fifth of October, 1803, a council met at the house of Caleb Humeston, in what was then a part of West Springfield, and advised the organization of the First Baptist church with

the following among the membership: Thomas Rand, Caleb Humeston, Peresh Hitchcock, Benjamin Bassett, Asahel Chapin, Jedediah Day, Joseph Ely, Sarah Humeston, Anna Hitchcock and Bede Gill. Thomas Rand, one of the members, became the first pastor and proved a faithful one. The meetings were held in the little house on lower Northampton street, which the Baptists and Congregationalists had for some time occupied jointly.

Mr. Rand's pastorate lasted twenty-five years, a period of much interest to the infant church. In connection with his preaching he carried on a farm, and when the academy was built he taught every day during the school season. Several of his pupils became very useful men, among them being Rev. Justin Perkins, D. D., missionary in Persia; Rev. Hazen Howard, missionary in Burmah; Rev. Asahel Chapin, and Rev. Dwight Ives, for thirty years pastor in Suffield, Conn.

The membership of the church at first increased slowly, at the end of twelve years the number being sixty-three. Then in 1816 there was a great revival which brought in seventy-three new members, and another revival in 1826 added sixty-three more.

Soon after the latter year of increase the two denominations, which had been worshiping all this time in the same house, separated, and each built a new church. The Baptists erected theirs on the site of their present church.

After the close of Mr. Rand's quarter century of service there followed a number of short pastorates, some longer than others, but as a rule uneventful except that the church was gradually gaining in strength. These are the names of the pastors and their terms of service: Rev. Elder Taggart and Rev. David Pease labored as supplies for a short time; Rev. Henry Archibald, 1830-1832; Rev. Ira Hall (after he and several others had supplied), 1835-1838; Rev. Horace D. Doolittle, 1838-1842; Rev. William L. Brown, 1842-1846; Rev. Joel Kenny, 1846-1847; Rev. Asahel Chapin, 1847-1850; Rev. Mark Carpenter, 1850-1858; Rev. George W. Gorham, 1859-1862; Rev. J. H. Kent, 1864-1866; Rev. J. L. A. Fish, 1868-1871; Rev. W. H. Evans, 1871-1879.

In June, 1850, the pastor, Rev. Asahel Chapin, and fifteen other members were dismissed to assist in forming the Second

church in the growing settlement of Ireland Depot, so-called, near the river.

The present church edifice was built in 1880, and on the first Sunday of the following year began the successful pastorate of Rev. E. M. Bartlett. The church grew with the growth of the city and Mr. Bartlett left it in a flourishing condition when he resigned in June, 1892. The beginning of the following year brought the present pastor, Rev. M. A. Willcox, D. D., who is a ripe scholar and one of the most universally popular ministers Holyoke ever had.

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

We have seen in the history just preceding that, in the year 1849, a number of persons were dismissed from the First Baptist church for the purpose of forming a new society in the growing settlement of Ireland Depot. These, with others, to the number of forty-two in all, organized the Second Baptist church, June 24, of that year, which has since far surpassed the mother society, on account of the rapid growth of population about the new center. The first place of worship was Gallaudet & Terry's hall, corner of High and Lyman streets, and the first pastor was Rev. Asahel Chapin, who was one of those coming out of the First church. Prominent in the new organization was Deacon Edwin Chase, for many years an honored citizen and father of the present postmaster of Holyoke.

On account of business depression the gain in membership was at first so slow that at the end of two years the church numbered only three more than when it was organized. This was occasioned by removals, because in the meantime there had been twenty-five additions.

In 1852 Rev. Mr. Chapin resigned and, nine months later, Rev. James French became the pastor. Under his charge the society prospered so that they began to think of building a church, and on November 23, 1855, the lecture room of the new structure was ready for occupancy. The next month Mr. French closed his term of service and was succeeded by Rev. George W. Gorham, who remained with the church for nearly three years. The last year of this period there was a revival which

added thirty-nine persons to the membership. Mr. Gorham resigned in 1859 to go to the First Baptist, and Rev. A. J. Bingham followed him, remaining but one year. The next to take charge of the church was Rev. C. H. Rowe, who remained less than a year.

On July 2, 1862, Rev. A. M. Averill was installed pastor, and in the next year the church edifice was burned to the ground, less than five years after its completion. The second day after the fire a new building committee was appointed, and their work so promptly done that in a year and a half a larger and more convenient church was ready for use.

Mr. Averill resigned in December, 1867, and after an interregnum of a little more than a year, a call was accepted by Rev. Edwin Burnham, whose preaching and work were so effective that during the nine months of his stay sixty-one members were added to the church by baptism.

Rev. Dr. R. J. Adams came next and his pastorate proved to be a long and eventful one. In the year 1870 there was a notable revival, lasting into the next year. In thirteen months 108 persons were baptized, and during the first four and a half years of Dr. Adams's pastorate 262 were added to the church. In 1871 the society built a parsonage on the corner of Appleton and Chestnut streets, but a more important event was the change in location for the church itself, from the noisy, crowded site near the railroad to the quiet locality of the residence district on the hill. In 1882 a lot was bought at the corner of Appleton and Chestnut streets and the present beautiful and commodious edifice was dedicated October 20, 1885, Rev. Dr. A. J. Gordon of Boston preaching the sermon. The ruling spirit in this building enterprise was the pastor himself, but very soon after the church was opened for use Dr. Adams presented his resignation and insisted on leaving against the urgently expressed wishes of his people that he should remain with them.

In September of the same year Rev. C. H. Kimball began his pastorate and continued in service three years. He was succeeded by Rev. J. W. T. Boothe, D. D., of Wilmington, Del., who was installed on New Year's day, 1890. Dr. Boothe proved to be

a strong man and was influential far beyond the bounds of his parish.

Dr. Boothe resigned January 1, 1899, and was followed by Rev. Charles B. Turner, who came in February, 1899, and held office until his melancholy death, August 5, 1900.

The present pastor, Rev. John S. Lyon, began his duties January 1, 1901, and from all that appears the church has every reason to expect a long and eminently successful pastorate.

During the pastorate of Mr. Kimball this church was instrumental in building a chapel just across the river in the village of Willimansett, and during the same period the Ward One mission was established.

The latter was first started in 1888, in the vestry of the old Baptist church on Main street, beginning as a Sunday school with 97 members. Soon a Wednesday evening prayer meeting was begun, and in 1899 a new chapel was built for the work on the corner of Mosher and West streets. The money came largely from the young people's efforts and the building is therefore now well known by the name of Christian Endeavor chapel.

The pastors engaged directly in this work have been Rev. G. E. Nichols, Rev. F. F. Thayer, Rev. James Nobbs, Rev. H. H. Hallowell and Rev. Louis J. Bamberg, the last named being now in charge.

FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Methodists were late in starting in Holyoke, but they have now two large congregations.

In 1853, Rev. Thomas Marcy, who was superintendent of schools in Northampton at the time, began holding services in Lyceum hall on High street, and in May of that year a society was formed with twenty members. In the fall the church was moved into Galladet & Terry's hall and remained there till 1857, moving then into Chapin hall, where they continued until the vestry of their church was ready in 1869. Mr. Marcy preached a year and was followed by Rev. Rodney Gage, who also remained one year. Rev. Philander Wallingford succeeded for another year and Rev. M. E. Wright for two years. During the latter's pastorate so many removed from the city that the condition of

this society was brought very low. Indeed, it came to the point where Mr. Wright advised that the church should be disbanded and the members unite with other churches. A few accepted the latter part of the advice, but the majority clung to their organization and proved in the end that there was plenty of room for a Methodist church in Holyoke.

Help came to them in their need, for Rev. Martin Chapin of Florence offered to preach for them without charge, and did so for two years, very acceptably, too. Courage returned and with it financial strength enough to pay a regular salary. From this time the growth was steady and sure.

The further list of pastors with their terms of service is as follows:

Rev. Nathaniel Fellows, 1860, 1861; Rev. William J. Hambleton, 1862; Rev. William D. Bridge, 1863; Rev. John Peterson, 1864, 1865, 1866; Rev. Samuel Roy, 1867; Rev. I. B. Bigelow, 1868-1870; Rev. I. J. Abbott, 1871-1872; Rev. W. N. Richardson, 1873-1875;; Rev. C. A. Merrill, 1876, 1877; Rev. William Gordon, 1878, 1879; Rev. E. A. Titus, 1880-1882; Rev. E. P. King, 1883-1885; Rev. G. C. Osgood, 1886.

The church on the corner of Main and Appleton streets was begun during Mr. Peterson's pastorate, in 1865, but the work languished until the officers of the church sent a request to the conference for a "Man who could build a church whether he could preach or not." In response to this petition Rev. I. B. Bigelow was sent and he proved to be not only the man for that work, but a good pastor besides. The walls of the church were soon seen to be rising and the building was dedicated in March, 1870. Sixteen years after this, when Mr. Osgood had become pastor, only a year after the Second Baptists had dedicated their new church on Appleton street, the Methodists found the people all moving up the hill district, and the same question the Baptists had grappled with began to trouble them. Once begun the agitation would not be kept down, and the end of the matter was that a lot was bought and a church edifice begun on the corner of Appleton and Elm streets, only one short square from the new church of the Baptists. This was an unfortunate choice of a

site, because two squares east is the Second Congregational and one square north of that the Episcopal church, while only a little farther to the south is the Presbyterian church. Nevertheless the Methodists were well pleased to be so near the center of population and they soon completed a handsome and convenient church edifice in the summer of 1890. The land, building and furnishings cost $42,000.

Mr. Osgood was appointed to another church in April, 1891, and the pastors since that date are Rev. W. E. Knox, 1891 to 1896, Rev. W. B. Fisk, 1896 to 1898, and Rev. H. L. Wriston, who came in April, 1898, and is still in service.

THE HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. E. P. King, pastor of the First Methodist church, started a mission on the Highlands in 1885. A lot was bought and a chapel built so expeditiously that the house was dedicated in March, 1886. A Sunday school of 80 members was organized and preaching services were held by Mr. King and after him Mr. Osgood. In March, 1889, a separate society was formed and Rev. Wilson S. Fritch became the first pastor. The new church is in a section of the city which has had a rapid growth and its prosperity has been continuous. Rev. O. R. Miller, the present pastor, has made his influence felt in the community by aggressive temperance work.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The first steps toward organizing a Presbyterian church in Holyoke were taken May 7, 1886, when the Presbyterian board of home missions sent their New England field secretary, Rev. Dr. J. W. Sanderson, to look over the ground. He met a few persons who gave him to understand that there were a good many Presbyterians in the other churches, Scotch to great extent, who would delight to have a church of their own where they would be more at home.

The outlook was encouraging enough to induce the board to send a licentiate from the Hartford Theological seminary, named William Gardner, to spend the summer in Holyoke and gather a congregation if possible. The first service was held May 16 in

the Y. M. C. A. reading room on Suffolk street, the audience numbering 49 in the the morning and 63 in the evening. Soon the Y. M. C. A. moved to the Women's Union Temperance building on High street and there the Presbyterians held their meetings for seven weeks, but removed to the Foresters new hall on July 25.

In response to a request by 148 petitioners the Boston presbytery granted permission for the organization of the First Presbyterian church of Holyoke, and the formal business was transacted Thursday evening, August 26, 1886. Barak Wilson and George P. Bill, M. D,. were installed as ruling elders and William Scott and Alexander Paul as deacons.

The first pastor was Rev. J. M. Craig, who entered upon his duties the last Sunday in October of the same year. Mr. Craig soon saw the desirability of having a permanent place of worship and began agitating the question of building a church. A committee of fifteen was appointed, with the pastor as chairman, and the work was soon in progress.

Mr. Craig was very active and efficient in raising the necessary money and in superintending the construction of the building, doing much more in the latter direction than a minister of a parish usually undertakes. In all his labor he was conspicuously assisted from beginning to end by his faithful senior elder, Mr. Wilson. The house was dedicated March 5, 1889.

Mr. Craig remained two years after the new church was opened and then Rev. Mr. Augier supplied the pulpit until May 18, 1892, which was the day when Rev. G. A. Wilson began his duties as pastor. Mr. Wilson was a young man who put a good deal of enthusiasm into his work and the church grew under his care. He resigned in September, 1899, and the present pastor, Rev. Alvin R. Pennell, entered on his duties December 1, 1899.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

An Episcopal parish under the name of Trinity church was established in Holyoke as early as 1849, of which Rev. Henry W. Adams was rector. But the population was small and the financial support so meagre that the effort was abandoned, not to be

renewed again until 1863. In that year, acting on the advice of Bishop Eastburn, steps were once more taken to form a parish. This time the name of St. Paul's church was selected and the organization was effected October 12, 1863. The next December the first rector, Rev. James Kidder, was called. Jones S. Davis, one of the vestrymen, gave the society the use of a chapel and parsonage on Maple street, and this chapel was occupied for two years.

Mr. Kidder resigned in 1864 to go to another parish and Rev. O. H. Dutton succeeded him. Mr. Dutton was a popular rector. That he was a good orator is shown by the fact that he was selected from the clergymen of the town to preach the memorial sermon on the death of President Lincoln.

At the annual parish meeting in 1865 a committee was appointed "to procure plans and obtain subscriptions for a church." They selected a lot on the corner of Suffolk and Maple streets, where the church now stands, but nothing further seems to have been done until the next spring, when building operations begun and the corner-stone was laid July 5, 1866.

In the meantime the society had removed from the chapel to a pleasant room in the Lyman mills, and Mr. Dutton had resigned to be succeeded by Rev. Mr. Holbrook. The latter remained sixteen months and was followed by Rev. Dr. Peet, who came from New York city and held the office four years and eight months. During Dr. Peet's term of service in 1868 the church edifice was completed, the first sermon in it being preached by Bishop Lee of Iowa. Dr. Peet's work did not end here, however, for he undertook the task of raising money to clear the incumbrance on the church. He was entirely successful in this and proved himself, also, in many other directions one of the best and most useful clergymen the city ever had. During his stay the number of communicants was nearly doubled. In March, 1872, Rev. John Leech was engaged for six months, at the end of which period Rev. Charles H. Lester became rector and remained three years. This was a successful pastorate, the number of communicants increasing from 80 to 160.

Rev. William P. Tucker became rector in May, 1876, and

was succeeded, the next year, by Rev. Amos Skeele, who held office until April, 1881.

Three months later Rev. H. L. Foote began his ministry and for eight years served the parish very acceptably and was a useful and highly respected man in the community. At the very beginning of his term he raised money to pay off the indebtedness on the church and then enough more to build a handsome rectory on a lot just south of the church on Maple street.

In 1887 a gallery was put into the church to increase the seating capacity and at the Easter meeting in 1888 a building fund was started for the erection of a new church, the necessity for which was clearly foreseen. When Mr. Foote resigned, in May, 1889, the church membership numbered 300.

In September of that year Rev. J. C. Wellwood accepted a call to the parish and filled the office of rector seven years. He was followed by Rev. George S. Sinclair, who remained from April, 1897, to November, 1899. After that Rev. C. W. McCully served as rector in charge for a few months, and on the first of October, 1900, the present rector, Rev. H. Morrill, entered on his work.

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH

An effort was made to form a Unitarian society in Holyoke in 1857, but failed after a trial of a few months. The present church was incorporated June 27, 1874, when the constitution was signed by 55 persons. Rev. W. S. Heywood became the first pastor, the call being given September 21, 1874. Services were first held in Parsons hall and afterwards in St. Jerome hall, on Maple street. In 1875 the water power company, following their custom with so many of the other denominations, gave the Unitarians a lot of land on Maple street, and the society took immediate steps toward building a house of worship, the chapel being completed in the spring of 1876.

Mr. Heywood resigned February 2, 1883, and in June Rev. Granville Pierce was called and remained as pastor for three years. His successor was Rev. James W. Carney, who was ordained and installed January 11, 1887. In the summer of 1889 a large addition was built to the church, which more than doubled its capacity.

Mr. Carney was a young man who was liked by his church and made many friends, also, outside of it, but after a dozen years of preaching he decided to try something else. Accordingly, he resigned the office of pastor and took up the study of law, remaining in the city until he was admitted to the bar.

He was succeeded in the Unitarian pulpit by Rev. T. E. Chappell, a bright and active man, who remained with the society two years. Rev. A. G. Singsen, the present pastor, began his duties September 1, 1901.

THE FRENCH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

This society was organized July 2, 1886, the mission from which it sprung having been started two years earlier by Rev. Mr. Cote, general missionary for Massachusetts of the French Congregational work. The first pastor was Rev. J. L. Morin, but before the first year had passed he had a call to a larger parish in Lowell and resigned the Holyoke charge. In September, 1887, Rev. Samuel Vernier was called to the pastorate and remained about a year. After that the pulpit was filled for short periods by Rev. J. A. Vernon and Rev. Mr. Ameron, president of the French college at Springfield. On June 30, 1899, Rev. I. P. Bruneault was called and installed December 3.

The services of this society were at first held in Grace chapel, then in Parsons hall, and, since 1885, in the chapel of the Second Congregational church.

The pastors have been as follows:

Rev. T. G. A. Cote, December, 1884, to June, 1885; Rev. J. Morin, June, 1885, to October, 1886; Rev. P. S. Vernier, Rev. M. Vernon and Rev. Mr. Provost served the people until Rev. I. P. Bruneault came, in October, 1889. Mr. Bruneault resigned in April, 1893. Rev. C. H. Vessot came next, November 1, 1893, and remained till April, 1901, when the present pastor, Rev. Mr. Lobs began his duties with the church.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

As early as 1866 German services were started in a school house in South Holyoke and the next year a house of worship was

erected at a cost of $5,000. This was mainly due to the efforts of the first pastor, Rev. Mr. Frankel.

The second pastor was Rev. Mr. Schwartz, who remained five years. The next was Rev. Mr. Buchler, a Lutheran, the others having been Presbyterians. Mr. Buchler built a parsonage at the rear of the church and held office four years, being followed by Rev. Mr. Muelde, and, six months later, by another Rev. Mr. Schwartz, a brother of the former pastor of that name. This pastorate lasted three years, and the next one, that of Rev. Mr. Hanle, fourteen years.

All this time there had been no legally organized church, but toward the close of Mr. Hanle's ministry a society was formed, the exact date being September 3, 1888. Soon after this Mr. Hanle resigned and in December of the same year the society called Rev. August Brunn, who is still holding the office of pastor.

GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH

This society was organized October 16, 1892, and in 1894 built and dedicated a substantial and beautiful church on a sightly location at the corner of Sargeant and Elm streets. The first pastor was Rev. Albert Buchles, who served for four years. After his resignation Rev. H. Van Haagen served as pastor for a year, and in 1897 the present pastor, Rev. Dr. Jacob Weber, was settled.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF HOLYOKE

St. Jerome's Parish

The Catholic church is strong in Holyoke, stronger than in most New England cities of the size. When the water power of the Connecticut began to be developed by the building of the dam, large numbers of Irishmen came to do the work, and they have kept coming ever since in generous proportions, when compared with other nationalities. There are a great many French Catholics, also, in the city.

Ireland Depot was the first name of the city's center, and here the first mass, it is reported, was said under a tree by a Father Bartholomew Connor from Ireland, some time before

Convent of Notre Dame

1847. For several years the people were attended once in five weeks by priests from Chicopee, but in 1856 Rev. Jeremiah O'Callaghan was settled as the first resident pastor. His people gathered in Exchange hall, on High street, but he soon began to plan St. Jerome's church and pushed the enterprise so energetically that the beautiful edifice was finished in 1860 and dedicated by Bishop Fitzpatrick.

Father O'Callaghan died the next year and his body was laid to rest under the eastern wall of the church.

Father James F. Sullivan was pastor for five years and then, in 1866, came Rev. P. J. Harkins, who still holds the office at the age of seventy years.

Father Harkins has been a man of ability and power in the community and has built up his parish wonderfully. He has seen the number of Catholics in Holyoke increase from 900 to more than 25,000 and has witnessed the erection of four more Catholic churches, besides numerous other large buildings for the various needs of the people. He has made St. Jerome's the most complete parish in the Springfield diocese and he himself is the most eminent priest west of the Connecticut.

The building operations in connection with the church, in which Father Harkins has been engaged, make a remarkable exhibit. They are as follows: The convent for the Sisters of Notre Dame, cost $18,000; church in South Hadley Falls, $15,000; the Catholic institute for parish work and a school for boys, $40,000; Sacred Heart church; the school for girls facing the park; rebuilding St. Jerome's church at a cost of $50,000; the convent home of the Sisters of Providence, cost $20,000; a chapel on the west side of the church, cost $20,000. He also gave as a personal gift the "Harkins Home" for aged women. It cost him $20,000. He has had more than any other person to do with the orphanage for girls at Ingleside and the new Providence hospital on Dwight street.

The following have served as curates in this parish, their terms varying from one to six years: Rev. James Tracy, Rev. T. Hannigan, Rev. F. J. Lynch, Rev. Charles McManus, Rev. Francis Brennan, Rev. Thomas Smyth, Rev. P. B. Phelan, Rev.

C. J. Cronin, Rev. John E. Garrity, Rev. David Moyes, Rev. J. I. O'Reilly, Rev. R. F. Walsh, Rev. L. Derwin, Rev. L. E. Stebbins, Rev. James McKeon, Rev. W. T. Jennings, Rev. John R. Murphy, Rev. W. J. Harty, Rev. W. J. Powers, Rev. John Crowe, Rev. George Fitzgerald, Rev. W. Hart, Rev. Garvin, Rev. Patrick Hofey, Rev. A. A. Dwyer, Rev. J. J. Donnelly, Rev. Richard Healey, Rev. Daniel Sheehan, Rev. C. M. Magee, Rev. A. D. O'Malley, Rev. John C. Ivers.

PARISH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

It is estimated that there are in Holyoke more than 15,000 people of Canadian birth or descent and the parish of the Precious Blood was the first one to be organized in the diocese among the French-Canadians. It was formed in 1869 by Father A. B. Dufresne, who built a frame church on Park street that year.

Among the first French families in the town were the Prews, the Benoits and the Terriens. Previous to 1860 John Proulx (Prew) brought down forty-five French people from Canada for the Lyman mills. They came in two large wagons, and in the company was one who became a noted missionary to the Indians, Father John St. Onge.

In connection with this parish occurred the saddest tragedy in the history of Holyoke. On a May evening, in 1874, while the church was filled with people, some lace was blown against a lighted candle and almost immediately the whole interior was in flames. A panic ensued and seventy-two lives were lost, many others being saved by the bravery of some Irish boys who were playing ball in the vicinity. Prominent among these was John J. Lynch, who is now chief of the fire department of the city, and who was, at the time, hailed as a hero all over the country.

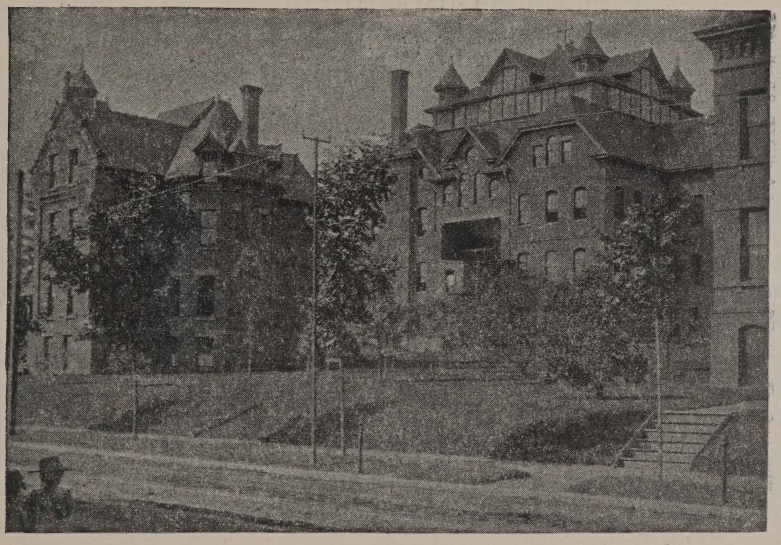
The afflicted parish had the courage to begin the erection of another and better house of worship, and it was dedicated in 1878. It will seat 1,100 persons and cost $78,000.

In 1887 Father Dufresne died and was buried in the churchyard, where the congregation have built a fine monument to him. He was succeeded by Father H. O. Landry, who died after three years of service.

The present pastor, Rev. Charles Crevier, came in 1890, and four years afterward he opened a large school for boys, which he had built at a cost of $28,000. He also built a parochial residence at an outlay of $30,000. There are 6,000 persons in the Precious Blood church. The assistants are Rev. H. Desrochers and Rev. W. A. Hickey.

SACRED HEART PARISH

This parish was set off from St. Jerome's in 1878, Father Harkins having bought a large lot on South Maple street and



Sacred Heart Convent and Parochial School

begun a church in 1876. Father James F. Sheehan came from Pittsfield to be the first pastor, but after completing the presbytery his already feeble health failed entirely and he died in 1880. His successor was the present pastor, Father P. B. Phelan, who came from West Springfield.

Father Phelan was obliged to take care of a debt on the parish of $40,000, but he managed so well that he was soon able to begin work again on the church and had it finished and furnished to double its original capacity two years later.

In 1897 he raised a spire on the church and put in a chime of ten bells, the first in the city. The day the bells were blessed Bishop Beaven made Father Phelan a permanent rector, making Holyoke the first city in the diocese to have two permanent rectors, Father Harkins and Father Phelan.

The curates of this parish have been Rev. M. E. Purcell, Rev. P. H. Gallen, Rev. W. J. Dower, Rev. John F. Leonard, Rev. P. J. Griffin and Rev. J. P. McCaughan.

HOLY ROSARY PARISH

The English-speaking Catholics increased so fast that in 1886 the bishop set off another parish from St. Jerome's in the eastern part of the city and placed it in charge of Father M. J. Howard. The name of Holy Rosary was given to the new parish, and for about two years services were held in the large brick church of the Second Baptist society, which had moved to the hill.

It is astonishing with what rapidity all these Catholic parishes provided themselves with commodious and handsome houses of worship. Probably Holyoke shows as many examples of this miracle of thrift as any place in the country.

In two and a half years after the parish of the Holy Rosary was formed a new church was erected and the basement, ready for service, was dedicated.

Holyoke has another distinction in furnishing for the diocese its new bishop on the death of Bishop O'Reilly.

Father Howard died in 1888 and Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Beaven of Spencer was called to be pastor of Holy Rosary, and in October, 1892, the pope made him bishop of Springfield. As pastor he was succeeded by Dr. F. McGrath, who is still in service.

The curates have been Rev. J. J. Howard, Rev. John J. Conlin, Rev. William Ryan, Rev. J. F. Griffin and Rev. M. T. Burke.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

The increase of the French Canadian population was so great that still another parish became necessary. This was set

off in 1890 in the north section of the city and named as above. Rev. C. E. Brunault, who still remains, was made the first pastor and services were begun in Temperance hall, on Maple street. In 1891, the very next year, a fine large building was completed, on the corner of Maple and Prospect streets, which serves as church, school and convent. The structure occupies the most conspicuous site in the thickly settled portion of the city, overlooking the dam and the broad sweep of the river for nearly twenty miles of its length.

Besides this building the parish owns a commodious presbytery and other buildings. Father Brunault was formerly assistant to Father Dufresne in South Holyoke and was afterwards pastor in Gardner for three years. He is especially gifted as a musician and directs the literary and musical organizations of his parish.

Father Brunault's curates have been Rev. W. L. Alexander, Rev. N. St. Cyr and Rev. L. Geoffrey.

MATER DOLOROSA—THE CHURCH OF THE POLES

Rev. Anthony M. Sikorski was made, by Bishop Beaven, the first resident pastor of the Polish people in 1896, Father Chalupka of Chicopee having cared for them previously. Services are held in the basement of the Church of the Holy Rosary, but Father Sikorski hopes they will have a church of their own soon. The people are poor, nearly all of them working in the Lyman cotton mills, but if we may judge from the history of the other Catholic parishes it will not be many years before Holyoke has a Polish church edifice.

Father Sikorski was born in Russian Poland, studied at Warsaw and was ordained in 1875.

THE FRENCH PEOPLE OF HOLYOKE

It is said with evident truth that fully one-third of our city's population is comprised of French-Canadians and persons of French descent, and further, that among the number are many men of means and influence and of moral worth and integrity; men who have been and still are controlling factors for good in

the business, political, professional and social history of our industrial city.

In the early history of Holyoke we discover that the town itself was incorporated soon after the Hadley Falls company had completed the second dam across the Connecticut and had successfully diverted the waters of that magnificent river for manufacturing purposes. There were those who doubted the ultimate success of the water power company, and when the canal system in fact was established and extensive mills had been built, there was found a shortage in mill hands and operatives. The news of this somewhat unusual condition of things soon spread abroad, especially in the regions of the Connecticut valley in this state and Vermont, and soon was extended into the provinces of Canada on the north.

About this time five French families came to Holyoke and constituted the pioneer element of French population in the town. The heads of these families were Narcisse Francoeur, Nicholas Proulx, Casal Viens, Furmence Hamel and Charles Provost, of whom only the last two are now living. From among this number the Lyman mills company selected Mr. Proulx to return to Canada and arrange for the importation of a considerable number of people of his own nationality, chiefly laborers and mill hands, skilled workmen when possible, but strong, industrious men were always desirable. For five years Mr. Proulx was engaged in transporting workmen and their families from the province to Holyoke and during that time he is said to have brought here at least five hundred persons; and to him perhaps more than to any other one man belongs the honor of having peopled our town in its early history with a thrifty and industrious class of inhabitants.

At the time of their immigration these families were poor in purse, but fortunately were possessed of strong physical constitutions and commendable ambitions. They knew little of English and still less of American customs, hence frequently were made the victims of designing persons and overbearing masters. They readily adapted themselves, however, to the new conditions and soon became recognized among the more intelligent classes

of our region. Originally it was their purpose to remain in the town only long enough to earn and save money sufficient to establish themselves in business in Canada or to relieve unfortunate relatives left behind them, yet of the great number of persons who came here during the first twenty-five years of our town's history few, indeed, returned permanently to their native homes. The coming and success of one family had its influence upon others and after Mr. Proulx had completed his service with the company no further personal application was necessary to induce settlements by the French from the Canadas. All who came easily found employment, although for a time their pay was exceedingly small, but as they became skilled in their respective lines of work wages were increased and to-day many substantial fortunes are the result of early struggles and hardships.

When the French settlement in Holyoke had become sufficietly strong a church was established, then a school, and with the constant increase of later years other societies and institutions were founded for the especial benefit of French residents. At first this people attended services in St. Jerome's church, later occupied a rented hall on High street, and, finally, in 1869, built a mission chapel on the site where now stands Father Crevier's residence, at the corner of Park and Cabot streets. About two years later this chapel was burned during service and sixty-three persons perished in the flames, while fourteen others subsequently died from injuries received on that awful occasion. The disaster occurred on Corpus Christi day, during vesper services, when a lighted candle set fire to the altar decorations, and in spite of every effort to subdue the little blaze the flames spread with such terrible rapidity that every life in that body of devout worshippers was placed in jeopardy; and then, when the congregation was endeavoring to escape from the doomed structure the single stairway at the entrance gave way and many lives were lost in the fall. We hesitate to dwell further upon the dreadful recital, for the events of that awful day are all too fresh in the memory of all our people. It was the most serious disaster in Holyoke history and never can be forgotten.

After the fire the French people worshipped in convenient halls until the completion of the Church of the Precious Blood,

in 1876. Rev. Father Dufrense was its first pastor. He died in 1886, and was followed in the pastorate by Rev. Father Landry, who died in 1890. His successor was Rev. Father Charles Crevier, the present pastor of the church. During Father Landry's time the Precious Blood parish was divided and the new parish then organized was placed in charge of Rev. Father Bruneault. The first services were held in the St. Jerome temperance hall, but soon afterward the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was erected on Prospect street. Both of these parishes now have splendidly equipped schools.

The aim of the French parochial schools of Holyoke is to furnish not merely "book learning," but to give special attention to the forming of character in the interest of good citizenship. In these schools the discipline is a little more severe than in the public schools, but results appear to justify the course pursued. The parochial school pupil, in addition to the subjects taught in the public schools, must acquire a thorough understanding of French and also of his religion. He is taught etiquette and deportment, and the traditional French politeness is plainly visible in his actions, so that a graduate of our French parochial schools, in addition to having acquired learning necessary for entrance to our high school, has as thorough knowledge of French as of English, and has the further advantage of personal acquaintance and association with persons who have abandoned worldly pleasures to devote all their energies to the one purpose of giving their pupils the broadest kind of education.

The first French society in Holyoke was that known as St. Jean Baptiste, organized in 1872, still existing and full of usefulness. Two years ago it became allied to the Union St. Jean Baptiste d'Amerique, which consists of all the French societies of New England. Edward Cadieux of this city is the organizer of this federation and its supreme president. The other French societies in the city, mentioned in the order of organization, are: L'Union Canadienne (founded by Joseph Beauchemin), La Ligue du Sacre Coeur, Cour Mont Royal des Forestiers, Les Artisans, Heptasophs, Le Cercle Rochambeau, Le Club de Naturalization, the Club Guilmant, besides musical organizations, literary clubs and other societies of less note.

In 1889 several influential French citizens of Holyoke, under the leadership of Pierre Bonvouloir (now city treasurer), organized the City Co-operative bank, an institution in the nature of a co-operative loan association and one which has been of the greatest good to all persons who have availed themselves of its membership and which also has acquired a high standing in organizations of its special class in Massachusetts.

The first French newspaper in Holyoke was "Le Defenseur," which was published weekly. "L'Annexioniste," a daily paper, next followed, and was continued for a time with indifferent financial results to its founders. At the present time the only French paper published in the city is "La Presse," a semi-weekly, under capable editorial management.

Reliable census statistics indicate that one-third of our city's population is composed of French persons and their direct descendants, and among the number is included some of the best and most public spirited of our entire citizenship. Glancing over the pages of our municipal, mercantile and industrial history, it will be seen that French names abound, which indicates that the little colony of that people who came to the locality nearly half a century ago found a ready welcome among our native townspeople and soon became factors of commanding importance in the later industrial city; and through all succeeding years the more recent comers and as well the American-born sons and daughters of French parents have been earnest and zealous in doing whatever might tend to personal advancement and the public welfare. In the churches, the schools, the various professions, the business and industrial departments of municipal life, in politics and in social and home circles French influence has cast its light always for good.

Having thus traced in a brief and general way something of the beginning and subsequent history of French life in Holyoke, it is proper in the same connection that allusion be made to some of the characters in accomplished results during the period of which we write.

Nicholas Proulx, who may be regarded as one of the founders of the French colony in Holyoke, came from St. Ours, Canada,

in 1856. Soon afterward he entered the service of the Lyman mills company and for the next five years devoted much of his time to transporting workmen and their families from Canada to this town, thus furnishing hundreds of employees to the mills of this locality. After he left the company's service he gave his attention to mercantile pursuits, dealing in coal and wood for several years, and still later engaging in other business enterprises, always with a fair measure of success. He accumulated a comfortable fortune and likewise gained the respect of our people in general. He died in June, 1888, in his seventy-third year. He had five daughters and three sons, the latter now living in the city and being among its progressive business men. They are George J., John J. and Joseph N. Prew. The older generations of this family always adhered to their correct surname Proulx, but later generations have Angelicized the name into Prew. The name Prew, spoken in English, is identical with Proulx, spoken in French.

Furmence Hamel came to Holyoke from St. Paul, Canada, in 1860, with a family of eight sons and two daughters. Although he had been a school teacher in Canada he began life here as an employee in the Lyman mills, and later on worked for John Newton, a prominent mill proprietor. Still later he was for twenty-three years in the service of the Connecticut River railroad company, and now retired from active business pursuits, at the age of eighty-four years, he is an authority on all events of local history during the last forty years, his fund of anecdote being interesting and almost inexhaustable.

Charles Provost, now living in that delightful portion of our city known as the Highlands, first came to Holyoke in 1868, having, to use his own words, "more children than dollars"; but Mr. Provost's subsequent business life is only another splendid example of what industry and perseverance will accomplish even in the face of adversity, for notwithstanding the vicissitudes of earlier years in the city, he now is possessed of a competency, the result of his own personal effort. At first Mr. Provost was employed as laborer by the water power company, and subsequently learned the carpenter trade, becoming a practical builder in all

joiner work. In 1874, in company with Gilbert Potvin, he built a large block in ward one, and during his long residence here he also has carried on large real estate operations.

Thus might these reminiscences of early life among the French colonists in Holyoke be continued almost indefinitely, but the foregoing narrative must suffice for present purposes. However, before closing our chapter, it is proper that brief mention be made of some of the representative French citizens of Holyoke of the present day; men who are factors in city history and who by their efforts have contributed toward the conditions of progressiveness which now prevail in our constantly growing municipality.

Henry E. Chaput, M. D., was born December 29, 1869, in St. Hyacinthe, P. Q., a son of Narcisse Joseph and Eloise (Guitte) Chaput. He acquired his elementary education in St. Hyacinthe, and pursued his medical studies in Laval college, Montreal, taking his degree there in the spring of 1894. In December, 1898, he came to Holyoke, where he since has engaged in successful practice of his profession. He is secretary of the French medical association, physician to Jeanne d'Arc Circle, and has been president of the association of students of the university from which he was graduated. In October, 1895, he married Jane, daughter of A. D. Girard, of St. John, P. Q. They have three children—Girard, Sylvia and Jane.

Odilon Z. E. Charest was born June 1, 1857, in Three Rivers, Canada, a son of Elzear and Arlena (Sulte) Charest. He came to this city in 1878 and found employment with the Holyoke Furniture company, where he remained ten years and then went into mercantile business with M. Sainte-Marie, establishing what now is one of the leading houses of our city. Mr. Charest is now serving his third term as member of the school committee, and in many other ways has been earnestly identified wit the best interests of the city. In 1886 he married Mary Jane Robert, by whom he has five children—Leonise, Antoinette, Arthur, George and Romeo.

Felix J. Cloutier, M. D., was born March 15, 1864, in Napierville, Canada, son of Siffroid and Oylmpia (Gautier) Clou-

tier. His father was born in St. Anne, P. Q., and died in December, 1900. His mother was a native of L'Acadie, Canada. Dr. Cloutier was educated in the schools of Napierville, in the classical department of the College of St. Therese L'Assumption and St. Sulpice seminary in Montreal. He pursued his medical studies in and was graduated from the Queen's university at Kingston, Canada. He came to Holyoke in 1889, where he has since resided and engaged in successful practice. In 1895 Dr. Cloutier married Emily R. Robert.

Jacques L. Demers was born April 23, 1833, in Montreal, Canada, son of Louis and Mary (Burrill) Demers. His father was a native of Montreal and his mother of Three Rivers, Canada. Both are deceased. Jacques was educated in the schools of Montreal and after completing his early education he studied portrait painting. In 1883 he came to Holyoke and established his present portrait and photographic business. In 1858 Mr. Demers married Louise Reel of Montreal. They have five children—Louis, Hormisdas, Wilfred, Marie Louise and Angelina Demers.

Valere Ducharme was born in St. Guillaume, Canada, September 29, 1864, son of Hyacinthe and Sophie Ducharme. His father came to Holyoke in 1879. His mother died in this city in 1896. Valere was educated in Canada, and there also learned the grocery and meat business. He came to Holyoke with his father, and in 1886 opened his present grocery store and meat market in partnership with E. D. Durocher. In 1889 he purchased his partner's interest and since has conducted the business alone. In 1892 he married Corinne Lecault of Verchere, Canada. They have four children—Clement, Camille, Oliver and Romuld Ducharme.

Alfred D. Durocher was born January 30, 1864, at Farnham, Canada, son of Pierre (a native of Longueil, Canada, and a butcher by trade), and Esther (Berard) of Marieville, Canada. Both of his parents are dead. Alfred was educated at Farnham college, and after completing his course he learned the meat and grocery business. He came to Holyoke in 1880 and established his present business in 1882, on Cabot street, where he still is lo-

cated in one of the finest stores in the city. He also deals in real estate. He is a member of the auditing committee of the Westfield railroad and of St. Jean Baptiste society. In 1885 Mr. Durocher married Georgene Dame of St. Cesaire, Canada. They have five children—Alfred, Ernest, Aurore, Emil and Ermand Durocher.

John E. Fessant was born in Canada, Ontario, in 1867 and was educated in the schools there. He learned the profession of pharmacist in Guelph, Canada, and came to Holyoke in 1893, where he commenced his present business. Mr. Fessant is a member of the Odd Fellows.

Orphir E. Genest, attorney and counsellor at law, was born July 31, 1860, in Three Rivers, Canada, son of C. B. Genest, also an attorney. Orphir was educated at the seminary in Three Rivers and was admitted to the bar March 15, 1882. Immediately after his admission he began practice. He was a member of the board of registrars five years and was appointed probation officer in 1896, which latter office he since has held. He has been interested in politics to considerable extent. He is attorney for the City Co-operative bank, having been one of its organizers.

Leon J. Laporte was born February 15, 1847, in Lavaltrie, P. Q., son of Leon Jeremie and Flavi (Martineau) Laporte. Leon, the father, came to Holyoke in June, 1868, with his wife and seven children, named as follows: Cordelia, Georgiana (deceased), Danilda (deceased), Celina, Leon J., Leon and Medric J. Cordelia is now the wife of Maxime Parenteau of Springfield; Leon J. is druggist; Leon is engaged in carpet cleaning and furniture moving, and Celina is organist in the Precious Blood church, which position she has filled for twenty-five years. Leon Jeremie (the father) was engaged in the trucking business. He died in 1874. His wife is still living in Holyoke.

Joseph Masse was born April 2, 1866, in St. Bruno, Canada, son of Solomon and Philomene (Peltier) Masse. Joseph was educated in district school and came to Holyoke in 1885, where he was employed in a grocery store. In 1890 he opened a store on his own account and five years later added meats to his grocery stock. He has been a member of the republican city com-

mittee for five years; is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, the Foresters of America, the C. M. B. A., the Union Fraternal league, St. Jean Baptiste society and L'Union Nat. Francaise. In 1889 he married Mary S. Bibeau of St. Julie, Somerset, Canada. They have two children—Joseph L. Armand and Lodohiska Loretta—and also an adopted child, Edgar Brunelle.

Anthyme S. Menard, M. D., was born December 31, 1863, in St. Cesaire, P. Q., son of Charles and Zoe (Monty) Menard. Charles Menard came to Holyoke in 1865, and was actively prominent in securing a French priest in the city. He is still living in the city; his wife died in 1897. Dr. Menard obtained his early education in St. Cesaire and his medical degree from the University of Vermont in 1888. He is a post-graduate of the Post-Graduate Medical college, New York, and has studied his specialty on diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat under Profs. Abadie and DeWecker of Paris, France. In 1894 he represented the fourth ward of Holyoke in the city council. He engaged in his present drug business in 1891. In 1888 he married Osia M., daughter of Dr. C. W. Gelineau. Dr. and Mrs. Menard have three children—Claudio, Cozette and Alice. Dr. Menard has traveled through both American and European continents and is a musician of ability.

Val. Moquin was born August 3, 1855, in Saint Urbain, Canada, son of Joseph and Priscilla (La Fountain) Moquin. His father came to Holyoke in 1866 and carried on a grocery and provision store. He died in 1890. His mother was a native of St. John Baptist, Canada, and died in 1864. Val. Moquin has resided in Holyoke since 1868, and during this period of more than thirty years he has been actively engaged in business, in which he has been very successful. He has identified himself with the progress of the city in many ways. He early saw the future greatness of Holyoke, and by judicious investments has become one of our largest real estate owners. In French social circles he is prominent and influential, and is the best known man of our French-speaking population. He has given substantial aid to some of our best public institutions and is a director in the French Co-operative bank and also in the Peoples' and Holyoke

Savings banks. He has been a member of the St. Jean Baptiste society since he came to Holyoke and has held many offices in that organization. He received an appointment from Mayor Griffin as member of the old fire commission and was asked by Mayor Farr, as a special favor, to serve on the new commission. To this he assented only upon condition that he be assigned a short term.

Francis X. Patoel, M. D., was born September 3, 1845, in Joliette, Canada, a son of Theodore and Sophrenie (Pannlton) Patoel, both of whom are now dead. Francis obtained his early education in the schools of Joliette and pursued medical studies at the University of Victoria, Montreal, P. Q., from which he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1869. He came to Holyoke in 1873, where he since has practiced his profession. He has served on the board of health two years. In 1871 he married Marie Louise Ducondu. They have two children—Alexander, a druggist, and George, a jeweler.

Adelard M. Potvin was born October 27, 1869, in St. Ours, Canada, son of Louis and Sophia (Proulx) Potvin. His parents came to Holyoke in 1871, and are both dead. Adelard acquired his early education in the schools of Holyoke and began his business career in a men's furnishing store. He started his present furnishing and hat store in 1890 and has since conducted it with gratifying success. He is a republican and has served on the board of aldermen and also as alderman at large for the years 1899, 1900, 1901 and 1902, and made an excellent run for representative in 1901, being defeated by less than 200 votes in a democratic stronghold, the 7th Hampden representative district. In 1889 he married Elodie Valin of Pittsfield, Mass. They have two children—Lillian A. and Lena E. Potvin.

George J. Prew, son of the late Nicholas and Sophia (Goddard) Prew, and was born in West Springfield, March 15, 1855. Nicholas Prew (originally spelled Proulx) was a native of St. Ours, Canada (which township was settled by his great-grandfather, Francis, who came from France) and came with his wife and five children, to live permanently in Holyoke, on February 3, 1858. The events of his business life are more fully narrated

on a preceding page. He died June 29, 1888, and his wife died May 27, 1870. They left eight children, as follows: Sophia, Mrs. A. C. Lawrence, Mrs. Damas Chabot, Mrs. J. G. McCarthy, John J. (contractor and brick manufacturer), George J. (clothier), Lina (who was burned to death August 19, 1859), and Joseph N. Prew. George J. Prew married Cordelia Perry, daughter of Isaac Perry. Their children are Hattie M. and George J.

John J. Prew, a well-known and successful contractor and manufacturer of brick in this city, is a son of the late Nicholas and Sophia (Goddard) Prew, of whom mention is made in a preceding paragraph. John J. Prew has spent his entire business life in Holyoke and has taken an active interest in all that has pertained to the general welfare of the city, as well as his own personal affairs. He has been successful and has deserved success, and to-day he is regarded as one of our leading citizens. His wife, whom he married June 13, 1875, was Mary M. Laperre of Beloud, Canada. They have one daughter, Lina M., now the wife of George A. Savoy of Holyoke.

Joseph N. Prew, formerly a merchant, but now a dealer in real estate, and withal one of Holyoke's enterprising business men, was born in Canada, April 15, 1844, and came to this city with his parents previous to 1860, his father, Nicholas Prew (or Proulx), having been one of the pioneers of the first French colony in this locality, as is fully narrated in an earlier paragraph. Joseph N. Prew has passed the best portion of his life in our city and he himself has taken an active part in promoting its welfare and growth. For about eighteen years he was engaged in the picture trade, but in 1877 turned his attention to real estate business. On May 20, 1872, Mr. Prew married Matilda Marseseault, who died in 1895. In June, 1897, he married Carrie Lyon Vincent of Springfield.

Henry Proulx was born in Holyoke January 17, 1874, son of Daniel and Caroline (Laporte) Proulx. Daniel Proulx is a native of Canada and came to Holyoke in 1865, where he opened a harness shop, which he conducted for twenty-five years. He was alderman at large for two years and is now fire commissioner. Henry Proulx was educated in the schools of Holyoke. After

leaving school he learned the shoe business, and in 1898 engaged therein as a partner with Antoine Marcotte. In 1900 he purchased his partner's interest and is now conducting the business alone. In 1898 he married Eva Lareviere of Sorel, Canada.

Frank A. Rivers was born in St. Albans, Vt., February 13, 1854, son of Alexander and Matilda Rivers, both of whom now are dead. Alexander also was a native of St. Albans and for many years was roadmaster of the St. Albans division of the Central Vermont railroad. Frank was educated in the schools of Vermont. After leaving school he learned the millwright trade and came to Holyoke in 1862, where he worked as journeyman until 1882, and then started his present contracting business. For the past two years he has been a member of the firm of Rivers & Young, contractors. He served one year in the Holyoke common council and is now alderman for the ward of Chicopee. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Foresters of America. He married, first, Julia Tart, who died in 1880, leaving two children, Edward and Julia, the latter the wife of David H. Young. In 1883 he married Julia Lague, who has borne him one child, Reah B. Rivers.

Clovis Robert was born February 22, 1838, in St. Cesaire, P. Q. He came to Fair Haven, Conn., when he was sixteen years old, where he learned brickmaking; at eighteen he began learning the blacksmith's trade and at the age of twenty-one he went to San Francisco, Cal., where he carried on blacksmithing seven years. Returning to his native town he married, at the age of thirty-one, Malvina Archambault, a native of Abbotsford, Canada. In 1872 he came to Holyoke and for a few years worked at his trade and later engaged in real estate business. He has been agent for the Holyoke and Westfield road two terms. Mr. and Mrs. Robert have three children—George C., who received the degree of M. D. at McGill university, P. Q., and is now city physician; Albert N., also a physician, a graduate of Bellevue medical college, New York, and now practicing at Volcano, Cal., and Emily, wife of Dr. F. J. Cloutier of Holyoke.

Charles V. Roy was born February 8, 1866, at St. Alexander, P. Q., a son of George T. Roy. He came to Holyoke in 1884, and

engaged in the shoe business, which he since has followed, being until recently a member of the firm of Roy & Laramay, which was formed in 1893, but now is dissolved. Mr. Roy has served two terms as a member of the board of registrars, and is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men. In 1892 he married Luella Coon of Saugerties, N. Y. They have five children—Charles, Vivian, Irene, Ruth and Winifred Roy.

John St. John was born January 14, 1847, in Beloeil, Canada, a son of G. B. and Lucie St. John, both natives of Beloeil, now deceased. John was educated in the schools of Canada, and after finishing his schooling learned the brickmaking trade and later the carpenter's trade. He has been a contractor and builder in Holyoke since 1882, and is one of the largest operators in this business in the city. In 1874 he was married to Malvina Perrault, a native of Canada. They have had four children, of whom but one survives.

Arthur R. Vincent was born January 9, 1863, in St. Guillaume, P. Q., son of Isaac and Marie (Desrosiers) Vincent. Isaac Vincent came to Springfield in 1877 and died in that city in 1892. His wife was from Berthier, P. Q., and is now living in Holyoke. Arthur R. Vincent was educated in the schools of Sorel, after which he learned the drug business. He opened his present store in this city in 1891 and has since conducted it with gratifying success. He was elected alderman in 1900 and served one year. He is a member of the Foresters of America, St. Jeane Baptiste society and the Sorel conclave, C. M. B. A. On October 7, 1896, Mr. Vincent married Bernadette Chapdelaine, by whom he has one son, Paul Vincent.

CHAPTER II

THE TOWN OF PALMER

BY ORRIN PEER ALLEN

Topography.—Palmer is located in the extreme northeast corner of Hampden county. As viewed on the map it presents very irregular outlines, and contains about 20,000 acres. It is bounded on the north by Belchertown and Ware; on the east by Warren and Brimfield; on the south by Monson; on the west by Wilbraham and Belchertown. Its surface is much broken by hills dominated by Mount Pottaquattuck, which attains an altitude of about 1,000 feet in the northern part of the town, from which an extensive view is gained of the Berkshire terraces in the west and of Monadnock in the north. Some of the lesser elevations are known as Baptist hill, south of Three Rivers; Thompson's Mountain in the west part of the town, and King's Mountain west of the Old Center. The Quabaug river is the dividing line between the town and Warren, Brimfield and Monson; Swift river courses on the extreme western border, while Ware river passes nearly through the center; these three streams unite at the village of Three Rivers and form the Chicopee river, which, after a rapid transit of about a mile, enters Wilbraham. Each of these streams furnishes abundant power, much of which has been made available. The following brooks have their source within the town limits and flow into the Quabaug, viz.: Pottaquattuck, Salisbury, Kings and Dumplin; Cedar Swamp brook flows into Ware river. All these streams are attractive resorts for sportsmen because of the trout which lurk in their pools. The natural ponds are Glassford's, on the plain near the junction of Ware and Swift rivers, which has no visible

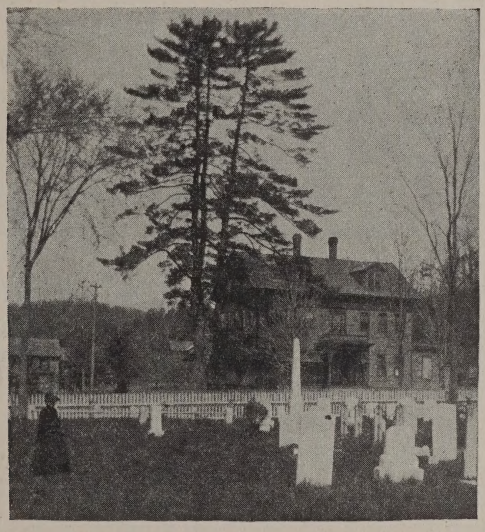
The Washington Elm

The Washington Elm, one of Palmer's historic landmarks, associated with which are many interesting revolutionary traditions. Here under the protecting branches of the elm Gen. Washington is said to have stopped to partake of the good cheer brought from the nearby tavern.

outlet; Crawford's, near Bondville, and the two Pottaquattuck ponds, the larger of which is now known as Forest Lake, which has been converted into a noted summer resort.

The several rivers find their way through narrow valleys which afford but spare margin for meadows, the only extensive plain lands being found between Three Rivers and Bondville.

At the time of the advent of the first settlers the country was covered with dense forests of pine, which have largely given place to oak and chestnut. The silva and flora of Palmer are



Historic Pine Tree—Palmer

extensive and interesting, made possible by the varying condition of soil from the rich meadows, to the hidden swamps, and the dry hillsides. The writer has collected and identified 140 specimens of trees and shrubs native in Palmer, which embrace nearly all the varieties found in the state, with the exception of those found only in maratime localities. He has also identified more than three hundred specimens of the flora of the town, which is far from exhaustive. The town takes reasonable pride in the preservation of two trees which connect colonial times

with the present. One is known far and wide as the Washington Elm, standing beside the highway on the original Maj. Aaron Graves farm, beneath whose grateful shade Gen. Washington sought a few moments for rest and refreshment on that torrid 30th day of June, 1775, while on his way to take command at Cambridge. The other tree is the notable pine standing in the yard of Ridge's Food factory, which has a girth of seventeen feet and is over a hundred feet in height. It must have been a vigorous sapling when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, and still preserves its vitality. It won its title to fame one hundred and fifty years ago, when one Sunday as Thomas King, a son of the first settler, was on his way to church, he espied a large bear in its branches, which he brought down by his trusty gun. He gave as an excuse for this seeming desecration of the Sabbath that the bear was a menace both to the flocks and the families of the neighborhood, and ought to be killed even on the Lord's Day as a matter of protection, which excuse was favorably accepted by the elders of the church.

Indian Remains.—It is said but one Indian family remained at the coming of the first white settler, whose wigwam stood not far from the present Burleigh bridge. The finding of arrow heads, pestles, mortars, ceremonial stones and other relics give abundant evidence of the former presence of the red man in nearly every part of the town. One Indian trail passed from Warren through the present village of Palmer, another through the north part of the town, and still another came past the Pottaquattuck ponds, thence across the plain lately known as the George Brown farm, past the present village of Three Rivers and on to Ludlow. The falls at Three Rivers was a favorite resort for the Indians when the salmon came up the stream, and afforded them a time of general festivity; Pottaquattuck pond was also another locality much frequented by them for fishing purposes. Although Indians often passed through our confines after its settlement by white men, no harm was ever experienced on their account, notwithstanding that rumors were often rife of their dire intentions during the last French and Indian war which raged in other quarters.

Tradition has it that in order to meet this rumored invasion a rude stockade was erected on a commanding knoll located on the George Brown farm, near the Indian trail, but the enemy did not materialize, so the people were left in peace, and the sight and rumor of Indians gradually faded away.

The First Settler.—John King was the first white settler of Palmer. He was born in England in 1681, and came to Boston in his young manhood, where he married Sarah Allen; John, his eldest son, was born in Boston in 1715. In the spring of 1716 he came with his wife and child into the houseless wilderness to enter upon the strenuous life of a pioneer. Attracted no doubt by the open lands on the plain where the present village of Palmer stands, he erected a rude log cabin a few rods south of the present residence of Mrs. Maria Lawrence, and cultivated the first land on the present Church street. He remained but a short time at his first stopping place, but removed half a mile east to the present Tenneyville, where he built a more substantial log house just west of the present Cooley house, where he spent the remainder of his days and where eleven of his twelve children were born.

John King and his sons became useful and honored members of the new township. John, Sr., died April —, 1744; Sarah, his wife, died Jan. 1, 1762. No descendant bearing the name of the first settler now remains in town, although there are many in the female line still living here. Several years elapsed before King was joined by other settlers, but before 1732 many accessions had been made, largely of Scotch-Irish descent, with numbers from the river towns and other localities. Many of these settlers had been induced to take grants of land from the Joshua Lamb Co., which claimed jurisdiction over the territory now known as Palmer; but it was found on examination that their Indian deed covered no part of said territory, which fact caused no little trouble to the settlers; so in 1732 fifty-six of the settlers interested in the matter sent an humble petition to the General Court praying to be relieved of the perplexing difficulty in which they were placed. The prayer of the petitioners was finally brought to a favorable conclusion by the able efforts of Steward Southgate,

one of the leading and best informed men of the plantation. This turn of affairs was reached through the mutual understanding of the settlers and the General Court that the claims of Lamb & Company be disallowed. Nov. 24, 1732, the Court appointed Col. John Alden and Mr. Samuel Bradford, with such as the Honorable Board might appoint as a committee to view the lands of the petitioners and report at the next session of the court. On November 28, 1732, Ebenezer Burrell, Esq., was joined in the affair.

The committee appointed by the General Court visited the plantation in due time and faithfully discharged the duty involved.

Report of the Committee.—After giving a detailed account of the boundaries of the plantation the report continues: "We find the greater part of ye sd Land to be Pine Land, High Hills and Low Valleys; the hills very poor and mean, the valleys pretty good. We also find that the said Tract of Land lies in a Broken form, and is much Discommoded by Farms claimed by Particular Grants from this Court, which have taken up the best of ye land. We also find that the Circumstances of ye Petitioners & Settlers and their Settlements are Different and much Intricate and Perplexed; some of them having entered and Setled without Regulation, and Interfered and Incroached upon other men's Pitches & Improvements. And in many instances too several Setlers claim one and ye same spot under different pleas and pretences of Right; some having Lots laid out; Some partly laid; and others only Pitched, interfering one with another as aforesaid.

"We would further inform this Honorable Court that we have taken great pains and care to Inspect & Inquire into every Particular circumstance relating to ye said Tract of Land, and find it needful to prevent further Charge & Difficulty, to Report Particularly, as Follows, viz, That we find there are entered & setled and about setling on the said Tract of Land the Number of Eighty Persons, the most whereof are families who have built Houses and made considerable Improvements; and are now and have constantly for more than three years past Been Supplied

with a Minister to preach the Word of God unto them; who has been Supported by a free Contribution. We also find that about forty eight of the above number were Introduced or Led on or Incouraged to Setle and make Improvements by Joshua Lamb, Esq., & Company, and their committee who Claimed the Said Tract of Land by virtue of an Indian Purchase, And the most of the Number had actually contracted with them for certain Parcels thereof, and received Deed of Conveyance and Order from them for leying out their Lotts and have had ye most of them laid out accordingly. We are therefore humbly of the opinion, That the severall Persons & Families hereafter named, that were So admitted and setled under and by the said Claimers; Have their severall & respective Lots hereafter mentioned Ratified & Confirmed to them, their Heirs and Assigns, in such proportion and under such Restrictions, Limitations & Conditions as follow and are hereafter mentioned.'' The committee then give in detail the description of the lots of land which they recommend to be divided among the forty-eight settlers. Then they go on to say: ''Furthermore we find, That the following named Persons to the Number of thirty-one, Having presumed to enter on the Province Land in Said Tract without any leave or order from this Court, or under any Pretence of Mistake or Admission from the Claimers; yet they having most of them made considerable Improvements and expended the chief of their Small Fortunes; and having paid their proper proportion for the support of the Ministry among them; That to remove them off would reduce them to extreme Poverty. We are therefore humbly of ye opinion, that it may not be Inconsistent with ye Honor of the Provence, and yet a sufficient Discountenence to such Presumptuous Settlements; If there be granted to each of them a single lot, Including their Improvements, upon such conditions as are hereafter mentioned.'' Here follows a detailed account of divisions recommended to each of the following settlers: Jethro Ames, James Breckenridge, Widow Andrew Bailey, John Brooks, Joseph Brooks, Peter Backus, Widow Nathaniel Blanchard, John Beamon, Mathew Brown, George Booth, John Combs, Joseph Chadwick, Abel Curtice, Obadiah Cooley, Obadiah Cooley, Jr.,

Jonathan Chapin, Thomas Chapin, William Crawford, Lieut. Samuel Doolittle, James Dorchester, James Dorchester, Jr., Nathaniel Dewey, Robert Dunlap, Daniel Fuller, Samuel Frost, Robert Farrell, Thomas Farrand, Andrew Farrand, Joseph Fleming, Humphrey Gardner, Elisha Hall, John Henderson, Rev. John Harvey, Thomas Hill, Thomas Jennings, John King, John King, Jr., John Kilburn, Benjamin Kilburn, Samuel Kilburn, Daniel Kilburn, James Lamberton, Thomas Little, James Lamont, James McElwain, Timothy McElwain, Bernard Macnett, James McClellan, James Macquiston, Ebenezer Mirick, John Moor, James Moor, Andrew Mackee, Isaac Magoon, Isaac Magoon, Jr., Thomas McClanathan, Samuel Nevens, Robert Nevens, David Nevins, Benjamin Parsons, John Paterson, William Paterson, Duncan Quinton, Andrew Rutherford, William Scott, John Scott, Samuel Shaw, William Shaw, William Sloan, Stuard Southgate, James Shearer, Patrick Smith, James Stephens, Robert Stanford, John Thomson, Robert Thomson, Alexander Tackels, Jeremiah Olmstead, Elijah Vose, Joseph Wright, Joseph Wright, Jr.

The committee also recommended that "the aforesaid Setlers & Grantees Do erect & build a suitable House for Public Worship, and setle a Minister within two years." The report of the committee was presented to the General Court June 21, 1733, and promptly accepted the same day and approved on the following day by the Governor, J. Belcher. The status of the settlers having been satisfactorily arranged, they immediately set about the establishment of a district government. The first legal meeting was held August 7, 1733, with William Pynchon of Springfield for moderator and Steward Southgate as clerk. The most important committee chosen consisted of Lieut. Samuel Doolittle, Samuel Shaw, Joseph Wright, Jr., John King, and Timothy McElwain, who were authorized to lay out necessary roads, locate a lot of one hundred acres for the first settled minister, also one for the use of the ministry and one for a school. Nearly all the ancient roads of the town were laid out at this time, being simple bridle paths at first, which changed into better highways as changed conditions demanded.

Site of first ordination. June 5, 1734–1899

Settling the First Minister.—Having laid out the highways, located the public lots and surveyed the lands of the first proprietors, the next important matter to be attended to was the settling of a minister, for the pioneers of Palmer were a deeply religious people. As Rev. John Harvey had preached acceptably for them during three years, it was arranged to give him a settlement at a salary of £80 per year. The ordination services were held June 5th, 1734, under the spreading branches of a great oak tree on Mr. Harvey's lot, now known as the farm of Charles Forsman, about one mile east of the Old Center. Mr. Harvey was ordained according to Presbyterian usages. The Rev. Mr. Thompson of Londonderry, N. H., preached the sermon and Rev. John Moorhead of Boston gave the charge. One other Presbyterian minister was present as well as Rev. Isaac Chauncey of Hadley, a Congregational clergyman. Thus under the leafy branches of this oak was the first minister of the new settlement set apart for their spiritual welfare. For these simple people the service was doubtless as impressive and as lasting in its effects as though it had been performed in the dim light of cathedral aisles, aided by the solemn tones of the deep-voiced organ. This leafy temple, the great white oak, stood for nearly a century as the reminder of the eventful day, and doubtless might be flourishing now if the owner had had any respect or sentiment for the historic past.

The First Meeting House.—The location of the meeting house proved a knotty problem for the widely scattered parishioners. Among the several favored sites was the scene of the ordination; the final decision was left to the drawing by lot, the Rev. Mr. Harvey officiating after solemn prayer, by which means the location was fixed at what has since been known as the Old Center, which proved a wise choice. The first meeting house was a plain structure indeed, measuring 30x36 feet, and one story high. It was without ceiling or plastering and furnished no means for warmth in the cold season. The only external ornament was the singular emblematical design placed in the gable over the front entrance, peculiar, it is said, to the Scotch Presbyterians. This house was first occupied in November, 1735, and for more than

three score years continued to be the Shiloh of Palmer, around which revolved the religious and political life of the town, and where the momentous matters of church and state were discussed and decided.

The French and Indian War, 1744-1749.—Palmer was settled so late that she escaped the terrors which desolated Brookfield and the Connecticut valley. But during the years 1744-1749, though outside the disturbed circle, she furnished her share of men to aid the menaced towns. Capt. Jabez Olmstead served in the expedition against Louisbourg in 1745. Timothy Brown was made a captive by the Indians May 5, 1746, and taken to Canada, while bearing important dispatches, and held there about fifteen months. Samuel Allen was mustered into service May 1, 1748, and posted at Fort Pelham. These Palmer men were posted at Fort Dummer in August, 1748, viz.: Obadiah Cooley, Andrew Cowee, John Blair, Peter Blackmer and James Paterson.

The Plantation Organized as a Town.—Closely following the recognition of their rights as a Plantation the inhabitants of the Elbows began to clamor for a town organization, but owing to the non-payment of a tax due the colonial government, they failed in their efforts. Finally in 1752, after seven petitions had been sent in and the tax had been paid, the Plantation was organized into a district having all the privileges of a town, save that of sending a representative to the General Court. This act was signed January 30, 1752, by Lieutenant-Governor, also acting Governor, Spencer Phips. The petitioners had signified a desire to have the town called Kingstown, in honor of the first settler, but because a town had already been organized by the name of Kingstown, Lieutenant-Governor Phips inserted the name Palmer in honor of his friend, Thomas Palmer, Esq., who had recently died in Scotland, so the name of the town was purely an accidental one. For many years the official name of the Plantation had been "The Elbows," so named, no doubt, on account of the numerous bends in the Quabaug river, which encircles a considerable portion of the town. The plantation had also been called Kingsfield, Kingstown and New Marlborough.

By a careful estimate, based on the first census taken in 1765, Palmer had at the time of its organization about 360 inhabitants, including one negro, and he a slave owned by William Scott; about 75 families, 60 houses, mostly constructed of logs; the entire valuation of the town was about $3,000. It contained one small church, Quintin's and Thomson's taverns at the Old Center, King's tavern, where Cross's block now stands in Palmer village, and Shaw's tavern on the present L. E. Moore place near the old Bay Path. There was a saw and grist mill where Thorndike is located, a saw and grist mill at Pottaquattuck Pond, and a grist mill at the present location of Bondsville; and there were two blacksmith shops. These mills and shops constituted the entire public industries of the town. There were no stores, no post-office, and no schools. There were no carriages; the roads were poorly constructed cartways, and locomotion was either on horseback or in carts drawn by oxen. Everything was conducted in the most primitive and economical manner. The people were thrifty and industrious and made the most of their limited means; the women had brought the spinning wheel from the old country and were adepts in the manufacture of linen, which found a ready sale in the river towns after supplying household needs.

The Last French and Indian War, 1754-1763.—Soon after its organization as a town, Palmer was called upon to furnish its proportion of men to meet the exigencies of another war between the mother country and France. The citizens responded with alacrity, and out of its sparse population furnished no less than 76 men during the continuance of the war, as shown by the following list: Samuel Allen, Daniel Allen, Isaac Aplin, David Bratten, Stephen Blackmer, John Blackmer, Simeon Brooks, Francis Breckenridge, David Brewer, Jesse Beers, William Carlyle, Abner Chapin, Stephen Crawfoot, Moses Cooley, Luke Chapin, Joel Camp, Jonathan Chapin, John Davis, Thomas Dunham, David English, Samuel Frost, Timothy Farrell, Josiah Farrell, Isaac Farrell, William Fleming, Thomas Ferrand, Jr., William Geary, John Hill, Thomas Hill, Thomas Henderson, Stephen Hatch, Benjamin Hutchinson, Nathaniel Hews, John

King, Jonathan King, Benjamin King, William King, David King, John Lamberton, Samuel Lemon, John Lemon, Robert McMaster, Joshua McMaster, James McMighill, James McNitt, Thomas McClanathan, James Moor, John Moor, Jr., William Man, James Man, William Mitchell, John Millard, Isaac Magoon, Aaron Nelson, James Nelson, William Nelson, Samuel Paterson, Moses Paterson, Joseph Paterson, John Recky, Samuel Smith, Hugh Smith, John Sloan, David Shaw, William Shaw, Matthew Spencer, Moses Scott, Elnathan Samson, Hugh Tackels, Capt. John Thomson, James Taylor, Benjamin Thomson, Henry Webber, Sylvanus Walker, Jesse Warner.

Spirit of Seventy-six. Like other New England communities the yeomanry of Palmer simply had a breathing period between the close of the last French and Indian war and the opening of the Revolution. In view of the coming conflict it was fortunate that they had become somewhat disciplined in the ways of war that they might be fitted for the sterner conflict. The blood of the Covenanter and the Puritan flowed not amiss in the veins of Palmer's sons; it stirred them to action and made them alert at the sound of the very first note of warning. They were keenly cognizant of the oppressive measures adopted by the mother country to retard progress and keep her colonies in abject submission. As early as March 1, 1768, the town voted in full meeting:

"Whereas, the excessive use of foreign superfluities is one great cause of the present distressed state of this country, in general; and the happiness of the communities depends upon industry, economy and good morals; and this District taking into serious consideration the great decay of trade and scarcity of money, the heavy debt contracted in the last war, which still remains on the people; and the great difficulties to which by these measures they are reduced;—Therefore, voted unanimously, that this District will use their utmost endeavors and enforce their endeavors by example in suppressing extravagance, Idleness and Vice, and promoting Industry, economy and good manners, and in order to prevent the unnecessary exportation of money of which the continent has of late been so much drained, it is

therefore voted, that this District will by all prudent means endeavor to discountenance the use of foreign superfluities, and encourage the manufactures of the whole continent in general, and of this Province in Particular."

Six years later at an adjourned town meeting held September 26, 1774, it was voted that David Spear go to the general congress of delegates from the whole Province, to meet at Concord the second Tuesday in October next. "Voted that William Scott pay or deliver seventy four pounds of powder, one hundred and twenty six pounds of lead into the town stock, in full discharge of the amount of said stock in his hands.". "Voted, that there be provided four half-barrels of powder, four hundred of lead, and one hundred dozen of flints, for a town stock, and the money to pay for the same be taken from the money on interest; and that William Scott, Joshua Shaw and Phineas Mixer be a committee to purchase and pay for the same."

In accordance with the recommendation of the Provincial Congress which met at Cambridge in October, 1774, Palmer enrolled and drilled a company of minute men. The news of the engagement at Lexington reached Palmer on the evening of the same day, and on the following morning a company of 44 men were equipped and started for the scene of danger, with Capt. David Spear at their head. From this time on till the close of the war Palmer never proved tardy or lacking in zeal for the cause of freedom.

Palmer Assumes Full Town Rights.—The Massachusetts House of Representatives on May 10, 1776, resolved that each town in the Colony ought in full meeting warned for that purpose, to instruct its representative relative to the attitude of the inhabitants, should Congress declare them independent of Great Britain. In compliance with the recommendation of the General Court, Palmer elected its first representative as a town, May 23, 1776, in the person of Capt. David Spear. The instructions given him first dwelt upon the oppressive measures of the mother country, and closed with the following patriotic sentiments:

"We do Direct the Representative of this Town to lay these absolutely Necessary for the safety of the United Colonies, to

be Independent from Great Britain & Declare themselves Intirely a Separate State, as we can see no alternative but Inevitable ruin, or Independence. But as there is a General Congress of the United Colonies, composed of Honorable, wise and good men, who sit at the Head of affairs, consulting measures which will be most for the Safety and Prosperity of the whole; & have the means of Intelligence and Information in their hands, we submit the whole affair to their wise Consideration & Determination.— And if they shall unite in a Separation from Great Britain, *we do unanimously determine & declare we will support them with our Lives and Fortunes!*

"We do Direct the Representative of this Town to lay these vote before the Honorable General Assembly of this Colony, to Enable them to communicate our Sentiments to the Honorable Continental Congress."

These instructions show of what stuff the men of Palmer were made, and they fully exemplified during the course of the war the sentiments therein expressed. From this time on Palmer was recognized as having full town rights. It is a notable fact that this Declaration of Independence by Palmer antedates by two weeks the immortal document of the Continental Congress, and breathes the same lofty spirit of patriotism and purity of devotion.

The Passing of Burgoyne's Men.—Palmer was so far removed from the scene of active war that its highways never echoed to the tread of marshaled foemen but once, and then they passed as prisoners, not invaders. Burgoyne's hirelings, the Hessians, to the number of 2,431 men, besides camp followers, including Gen. Reidesel and his cultured wife to whom we are largely indebted for a graphic account of the journey from Albany to Boston. This motley array of prisoners in the care of a Yankee guard encamped for the night November 1, 1777, on the farm lately owned by Dea. Brainerd, while the General and wife no doubt found comfortable quarters at the then Walker tavern, which still remains. Gen. Burgoyne and his English prisoners, under the escort of Col. Elisha Porter, passed about the same time through the north part of the town, and are said to have

Deacon Brainerd House. 1760-1900

encamped for a night on the present farm of Charles R. Shaw. One of the Hessian soldiers died at the Brainerd farm and was buried in the Palmer cemetery, where his grave is still pointed out.

Census of Palmer, 1776-1777.—There were 727 inhabitants in town in 1776. The following item we glean from the town records: "A return of the Number of Males from sixteen years old and upwards which breathed on the First Day of January in the Town of Palmer in the year 1777. No. of men belonging to the Training List 94, No. of men belonging to the Alarm List 35, No. of Decrepid Persons who are rendered incapable of service thereby 46, No. of men incapable of service by reason of old age and other infirmities 9, No. of Negroes 3. Total 187." Notwithstanding her limited means and sparse population, the town nobly responded to the call for men and means, and furnished 165 men during the war.

Revolutionary Soldiers.—The following list made up from all available sources is as perfect as can be given from present information. It is possible that a few names have been lost because of the imperfect way in which some of the records were kept. While a limited number of the men enlisted for the war, a larger number enlisted several times each for shorter service as the special demand required: Joseph Abbott, Sergt. Zebadiah Abbott, John Adams, James Averill, Jun., Ephraim Avery, Joseph Bacon, Simeon Bacon, Moses Barker, Simeon Barrange, Aaron Bartlett, Thomas Bartlett, John Bartlett, Woodbridge Belcher, Eleazur Bishop, Seth Bishop, Sergt. Stephen Blackmer, Thomas Blackmer, Jonathan Blunt, Henry Bliss, David Brattan, Francis Breckenridge, Benjamin Brooks, Sergt. Andrew Brown, John Brown, Lieut. Jonathan Brown, Obadiah Brown, Robert Brown, William Brown, Col. David Brewer, John Bruster, Sergt. Samuel Buel, Robert Burns, John Carley, James Carlisle, John Carlisle, William Carlisle, Robert Carpenter, Shadrach Chapin, Elisha Cleveland, Nathaniel Coburn, Capt. Isaac Colton, Abner Cooley, Asher Cooley, Jonathan Cooley, Israel Conant, John Crawfoot, Joseph Crawfoot, Stephen Crawfoot, James Cummings, Solomon Cummings, John Cutler, John Denney, Daniel

Dodge, John Douglas, Jesse Elwell, Corp. John English, Barnabas Evens, Isaac Ferrell, Lamuel Fisher, David Fleming, John Gardner, John Gibson, William Gibson, Pelatiah Goldsmith, Capt. Aaron Graves, Gideon Graves, Moses Graves, Simeon Graves, Amos Grey, John Hackett, Thomas Hamilton, Samuel Hancock, Sergt. John Harris, Sergt. Luke Hitchcock, Benjamin Hooker, Daniel Hopkins, William Hopkins, Samuel Hubbard, Lieut. Robert Hunter, Primar Jackall, Adonijah Jones, Ebenezer Jones, Lieut. David King, John King, Gideon King, James Lamberton, John Lamberton, Moses Lammon, Francis Lemon, Norris Lindsey, Luther Loomis, Sergt. Israel Loomis, Peter Lovejoy, David McClintoch, Joseph McClintoch, William McClanathan, Sergt. Samuel McClanathan, Thomas McClanathan, Corp. John McElwain, John A. McElwain, Roger McElwain, Hugh McMaster, Isaac McMaster, Capt, John McMaster, Joshua McMaster, Lieut. Robert McMaster, John McMichel, Capt. Joseph McNall, William McNall, Isaac Merritt, Capt. Phineas Mixer, Pelatiah Morgan, Gibson Morgan, John Moore, John Moore, Jonathan Moore, Judah Moore, James Murray, Aaron Nelson, Lieut. Daniel Parsons, Joshua Parsons, Lebbeus Paine, Thomas Riddle, William Roach, Elias Rogers, Jonas Rogers, Nathaniel Rogers, Daniel Royce, David Shaw, Corp. Erwin Shaw, James Shaw, John Shaw, Corp. Joseph Shaw, Lieut. Joshua Shaw, William Shaw, John Shearer, Joseph Shearer, Reuben Shearer, William Shearer, Thomas Shearer, Corp. James Sherman, William Sloan, Abner Smith, James Smith, John Smith, John Allen Smith, Joseph Smith, Capt. David Spear, Lieut. David Spear, Adam Stephenson, Alexander Tackels, Henry Thomson, Rufus Thomson, Josiah Tinney, Moses Tinney, Jonathan Tyler, Elijah Walton, James Walker, Capt. Sylvanus Walker, Obadiah Ward, Urijah Ward, Peleg Watson, Joel Willey, Ezekiel Woodworth.

Post Bellum Days.—At the close of the struggle for liberty the surviving patriots who had gone forth from Palmer to serve their country came back to their former homes to engage in the peaceful avocations of farming, for as yet little else had found encouragement in town. In 1787 when several adjoining com-

munities became disaffected and rose in rebellion under the leadedship of Capt. Shays, little sympathy was shown the cause in Palmer, yet Shays made this town the rendezvous for his insurgents on the 22d of January, and on the 23d came to take the command to lead them to Springfield 1,000 strong. But his plans were discovered by the alertness of Maj. Aaron Graves of Palmer, who informed the State officials, and Shays marched to his defeat before Springfield by a force ready to receive him, and the rebellion subsided.

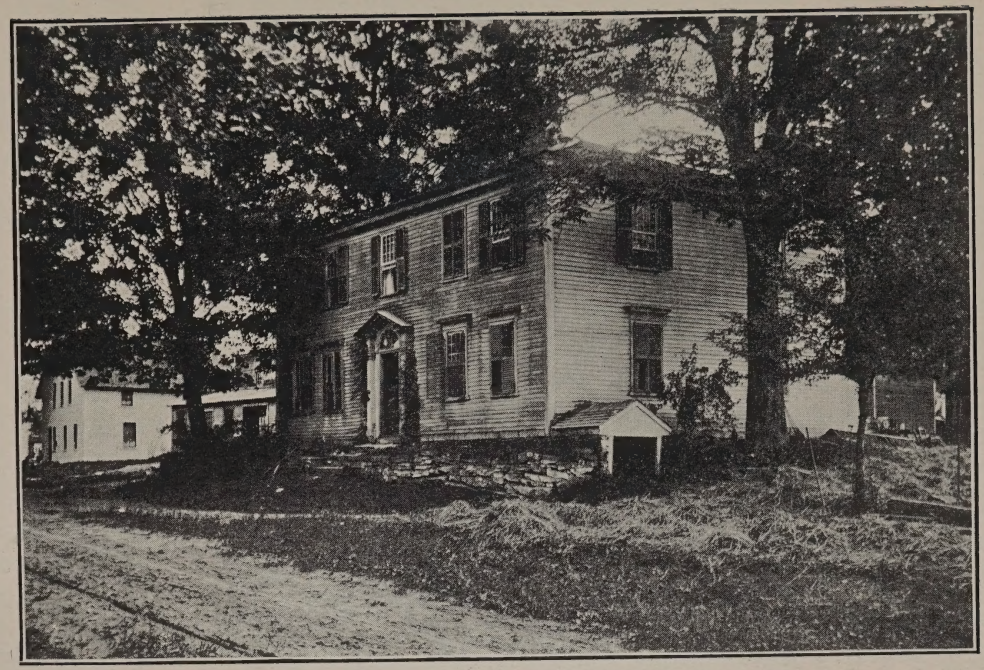
The New Meeting House.—In the olden days the erection of a new place of worship was a matter of the utmost importance to a country town like Palmer, which supported but one church. The first meeting house erected in 1735 had become unfitted for use, so after much planning and discussion a new structure was built near the site of the first house at a cost of about $3,000 and dedicated October 21, 1798; when the tower was added to the structure in 1807 a bell was presented to the town as a gift by Aaron Merrick. A circumstance connected with this bell is little known to the present generation. In 1809, when the meeting house was repainted, it chanced by some mishap that a portion of the bell was disfigured by paint, and in order to have it present a uniform appearance, it was entirely covered with a coat of paint, when it was found the bell would not give forth any desirable sound. The bell was taken down and the paint burned off; some critical person present thinking the bell seemed to lack in weight, had the matter tested and found his suspicions correct. The matter being made public it was soon found that nearly all the bells in the surrounding towns also lacked in weight, which had been cast by a bell founder in Brookfield. The guilty party being apprised of the state of affairs, fled the State not to return, his frauds having been extensive.

Turnpikes.—The first turnpike in Massachusetts running through the towns of Warren and Palmer was the harbinger of modern progress in Palmer. This was the great stage route from Boston to Springfield and New York, and continued till the opening of the Western railroad in 1839. Another turnpike was opened in 1804, running from Stafford to Petersham; both these

roads ran through the Old Center, and were the cause of many air castles being built by real estate owners living in that little hamlet, which, alas, were never to materialize. The stages came and went each day, the farmers tilled their acres and the town plodded on without further progress. In 1820 the population was 1,197, the valuation was but $9,092.77; real progress was delayed till the advent of the mills, to which coming the villages of Three Rivers, Thorndike and Bondsville owe their existence and the town a large share of its prosperity.

Industries.—The early industries existed for the needs of the town and were limited in their products. The first sawmill was erected at Pottaquattuck Pond in 1730, and a gristmill was put up by Steward Southgate near the other mill in 1737-8. The first gristmill was built at the lower part of the present Thorndike in 1736 by Robert Farrell and Thomas Harmon. In 1757 a sawmill was added to the same dam. James Shearer built a sawmill on Cellar Swamp brook as early as 1740, which was in operation till 1790; this was on the Josiah Gates farm. It is probable that Hugh Moor built a grist and sawmill on the Chicopee river, a mile below Three Rivers, about 1775; these mills were purchased in 1788 by Gideon Graves and operated by him till 1825, and soon went to decay after that date. There was a sawmill on Dumplin brook as early as 1800. A wool carding and cloth mill was conducted by B. S. Cummings in the Shoreley district as early as 1790. There was a fulling mill at Pottaquattuck Pond in 1795. Capt. Patrick Watson had a tannery on the Ware river near Whipple's Station as early as 1766. William Mason began the same business in 1790 just beyond Blanchardville and conducted it there for many years. As a matter of course blacksmithing was an early and necessary industry, beginning with John Aplin in 1733. In 1772 Capt. Timothy Brainerd added the making of axes and scythes to the trade of blacksmithing.

The Villages and Their Industries.—The Old Center was the only village in Palmer for a hundred years. The first settlers were Duncan Quinton, John Moores, James Lamberton and William Crawford. Their first dwellings were rude log cabins



Frink Tavern. 1795-1899

erected about 1725. Here in 1733 Quinton opened the first ordinary in town, and two years later the first humble church was built. In 1737 John Thompson came here and put up a second ordinary which soon became a popular resort.

Aplin Smith had come in 1733; additional houses came slowly; the school house was not located there till 1764. William Tupper probably had the first store there about 1790, succeeded by Hamilton & Upham and a little later by Col. Hamilton, who had the only store till 1824, when T. R. Knight added another.

The inauguration of the first turnpike in Massachusetts from Warren through the Old Center to Wilbraham in 1796, and another from Stafford to Athol in 1804 revived hopes for this little hamlet which were never to be realized but for a brief period. In 1796 the famous Frink tavern, which still remains, was built on the site of the old Quinton house and became one of the most noted hostelries between Boston and Springfield. In 1800 Asa Ward built another tavern opposite the Frink house. In 1805 the first post-office was established at the Center with Col. Hamilton as postmaster. Anson Moody was the first physician to establish a practice at the Center, followed by Dr. Aaron King from 1824 to 1861. The only lawyer of the Center was James Stebbins, a graduate of Williams in 1807; he came in 1813 and remained till 1835. The opening of the Western railroad in 1839 proved the turning point for the prospects of the Center. In a few years it lost its stores, its hotels were closed, its church removed, and even many of its houses. It is now a quiet hamlet.

The villages of Three Rivers, Thorndike and Bondville have been erected and chiefly maintained by the mills established in their several localities.

Three Rivers is located at the junction of the Quabaug, Ware and Swift rivers. Prior to 1825 the territory now occupied by the village was farm land, much of it covered by pine timber. The dam was built in 1825 and a mill erected soon after by the Three Rivers Manufacturing Company. Hall J. Kelley was a leading factor in carrying out the plans of the enterprise, but this company failed and was succeeded by the Palmer Co., October 17, 1831, which brought the work to completion through the

efforts of J. S. Wright and Joseph Brown. This mill was burnt in 1863 and rebuilt in 1873. This mill is one of the important industries of the town. The village contains about 2,000 inhabitants with the usual complement of churches, schools and stores.

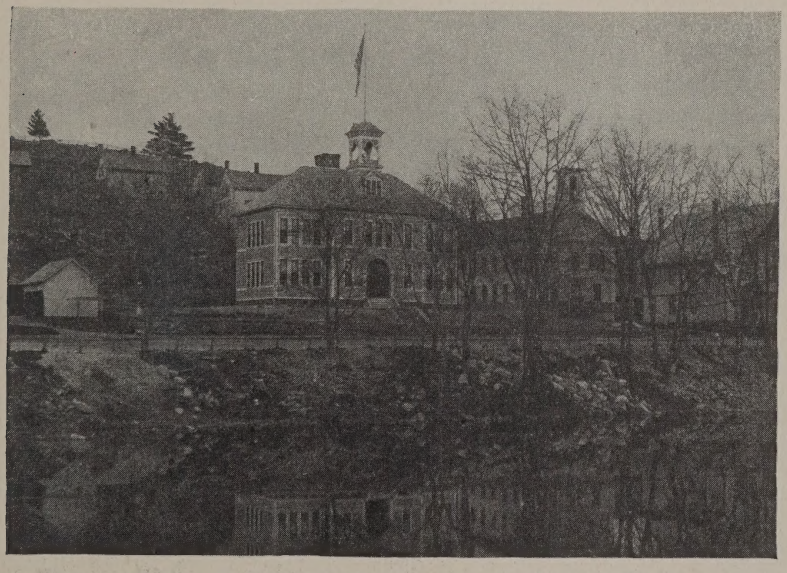
Thorndike.—This village is located in a valley at the falls on the Ware river. Its territory was originally settled by the Farrells, McElwains and Quintons; as early as 1736 a grist mill, the first in town, was put in at the lower falls, and later a saw

The Village Common, Three Rivers

mill was added near the same locality, which was continued till about 1795. About 1797 Goodman put up a grist and saw mill just below the present upper mill; two years later the property passed to Capt. Charles Cargill, who added a clothier's mill. Soon after 1825 Aaron Blanchard bought the property and enlarged the mill where different industries were conducted. Samuel Henry made windmills for some years and here Josiah Leland made the first ax handles by machinery. Prior to 1837

Three Rivers—Baptist Church

there were but few dwelling houses here; the site of the present lower mill was devoted to the growth of brush. The prosperity of the place dates from the formation of the Thorndike Company, March 14, 1836. The lower mill was built in 1837 and the upper mill in 1845, displacing the Blanchard factory which was taken down. J. B. Merrick was the successful agent of the mills for many years. The village derived its name from Israel Thorndike, one of the original founders of the company. The village



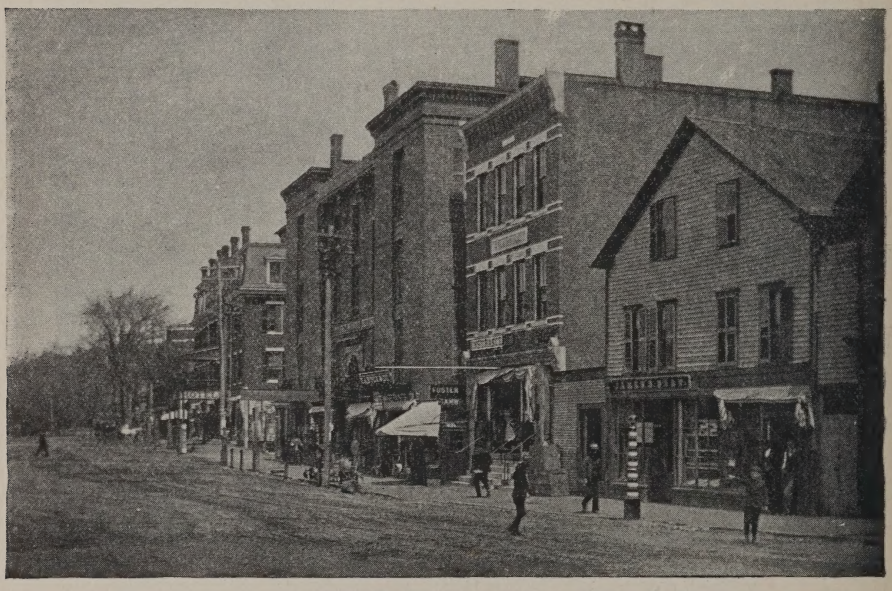
Bondsville School Building

has churches, schools and a variety of stores; its population is about 1,700.

Bondsville.—This village is located on Swift river. James and Samuel Lamont were the first who attempted to utilize the power here by putting in a gristmill in 1749. In 1795 Darling and Boyden built a sawmill, and succeeding them several minor industries were carried on. The present Boston Duck Company was formed February 15, 1845, and the mill completed in 1849. The village was named in honor of Emelius Bond, an early resi-

dent and leading business man of the community. The village has a population of about 1,600; has several churches, schools and stores.

Palmer.—This village resulted from the building of the Western Railroad in 1839; prior to that date the territory now occupied by the village was divided among the farms of Col. Cyrus Knox, Elisha Converse, John Watson and Capt. A. N. Dewey, with about half a dozen farm houses scattered along the



Palmer business blocks

highway. When the station was located here the possibilities of the place were soon recognized and a number of business men located here, among whom were Mr. McGilvery, John Ward, Franklin Morgan, Chester Strong and others. The McGilvery Co. very quickly inaugurated a thriving mercantile business; three hotels, the Nassawano, Converse and Western Railroad, later the Antique, were speedily built, and the village began its progress along the lines of healthy growth. To-day it contains a population of 2,000, has four churches, graded and a high

schools, numerous stores, a National and a Savings bank, is the seat of the Eastern Hampden district court with a resident judge, is the home of the Eastern Hampden Agricultural society and has an enterprising newspaper, the Palmer Journal, established half a century ago. The Flynt Construction company is located here, from which point all their extensive business is conducted. The industries of this portion of the town are the Palmer Carpet

Looking up Main Street—Palmer Village

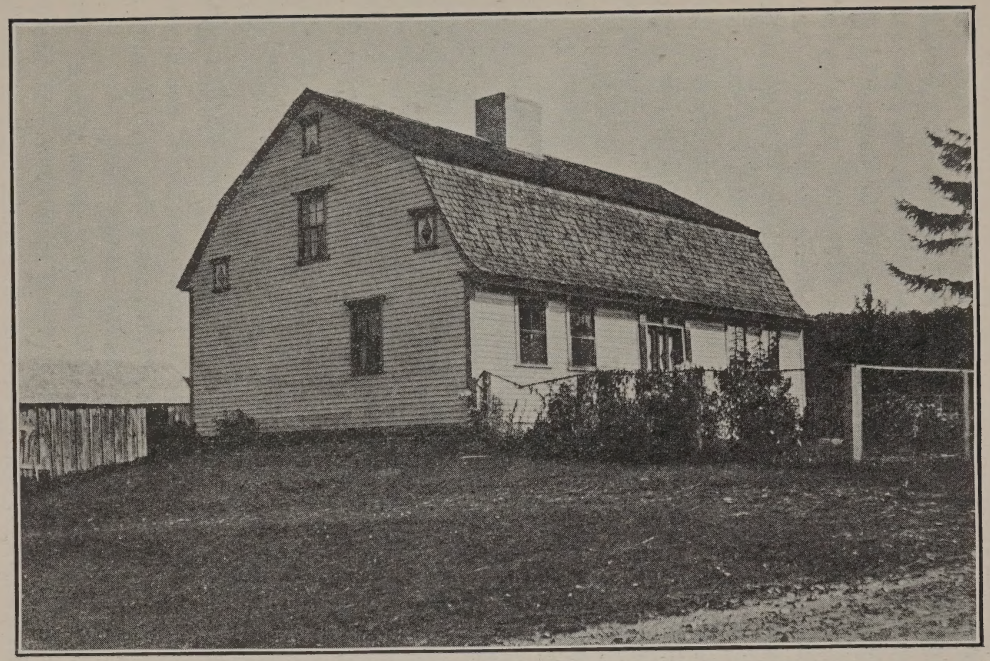
company, the Holden Woolen mill, the Wright & Callon Wire works and the iron foundry.

Blanchardville.—This important water power on the Quabaug river was first utilized by Solomon Slater, who came from Rhode Island about 1790, built a mill on the Palmer side of the stream, and fitted it with machinery of his own invention for the manufacture of cloth. He remained but a few years and his mill was changed to a grist mill. In 1805 Capt. David Hyde had both grist and sawmills here. In 1818 they were owned by

Elisha Converse and in 1830 by Rufus Bugbee. In 1824 Maj. John B. Blanchard located here and began the manufacture of scythes, which he continued till 1840, when the business passed to his sons, Alonzo V., William J., John D. and Franklin, who were very successful and had a wide sale for their product. They also engaged extensively in the making of plow and shovel handles, ox bows and wheel rims, continuing the business for many years. This power is now owned and used by the Central Massachusetts Electric Company.

Colonial Houses.—A few houses remain as object lessons of the times when Palmer lived under the rule of George III. A portion of the present Charles R. Shaw house was built by William Patterson about 1745. The Seva Brown house, east of Mt. Pottaquattuck, was built in 1750, i. e., the ell part, by Dr. Wm. McClanathan, and the two-story part in 1770 by his son Samuel. The Rev. Moses Baldwin house in Palmer village was built by him about 1767. The Joshua Shaw house was built by Shaw about 1762, near the scene of the first ordination. The Dr. Jabez Lamb house was built about 1770. The Deacon Brainerd house was built by Samuel Frost about 1760, with a front of two stories, and in the rear of one. The front remains unchanged, but the rear has been raised a story to correspond. This house was a tavern in the revolution, and where Gen. Reidesel, his wife and officers were entertained while his soldier prisoners were encamped about the house in 1777. The oldest portion of the Charles F. Smith house was built by the first owner, Robert Smith, about 1750, the front part by his son, Robert, Jr., in 1793. The farm has been in the Smith family for four generations and is now owned by Charles F. Smith.

Early Taverns.—In the days before the existence of the daily newspapers the tavern was the principal rendezvous for the exchange of news and opinions, so in Palmer from the first the landlord was one of the leading men of the town whose influences were wielded in a marked degree. The most noted early taverns in town were Quinton's, Thompson's, and Frink's at the Old Center ;Maj. Aaron Graves's, the first and second Scott, and Sedgwick's, near Shearer's Corner, and the King Tavern



Joshua Shaw House. 1762–1899

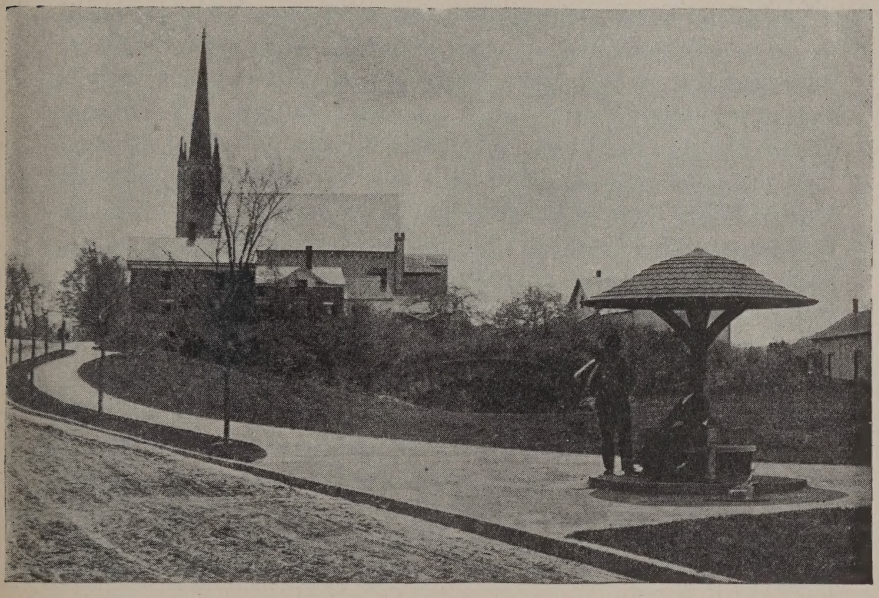
on site of the present Cross block in Palmer village, and the Captain Walker tavern, later the Brainerd house. The later and present houses of note are the Nassawano, the Converse and the Weeks.

Churches.—The first church—Presbyterian, later Congregational—was organized about 1730, and had its location at the Old Center till 1848, when it was removed to Thorndike. The Second Congregational Church was organized April 1, 1847, composed of members dismissed from the first church and others, and located in the then new village of Palmer. The First Baptist Church began to crystallize as early as 1818, but was not organized till November 16, 1825. The permanent church edifice was erected in Three Rivers in 1832. The Second Baptist Church organized in the village of Palmer August 8, 1852. The nucleus of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Palmer was formed in 1833 by a class of ten persons in Three Rivers, but it was not till June 16, 1857, that the church had a more permanent home, when its church edifice was dedicated at Four Corners. In 1885 the society united with the church at Bondsville, which had been formed in 1866. A Union Evangelical church was organized at Three Rivers April 27, 1876, which still continues its successful work. The Advent Christian Church was organized in the village of Palmer in 1874.

Second Baptist Church.—This church was organized August 8, 1852, and was incorporated by a special act of the Legislature May 2, 1887. It is located in Palmer village. It was formed with a list of twenty members formerly of the Three Rivers Church, but residents of Palmer village. A house of worship was dedicated in March, 1854. The first pastor was Rev. Samuel A. Collins, Jr., who was recognized in September, 1852.

St. Paul's Universalist Church was organized May 28, 1876, by Rev. A. J. Patterson, D. D., with a membership of twenty-one. The house of worship, the finest in town, built of Monson granite, was dedicated May 12, 1880. Rev. Charles H. Eaton was the first pastor and resigned after a successful pastorate of four years to become the pastor of Dr. Chapin's church in New York city.

Roman Catholic Churches.—Prior to 1850 but few families of the Roman Catholic faith had settled in Palmer, so that the visits of priests for their instruction were infrequent, but in 1854 their number had increased to the extent that it was deemed advisable to purchase the church at the Old Center, which was dedicated for their use the following year and continued to be their place of assembly till 1876, when it was vacated to occupy the new church at Thorndike, established through the efforts of



Looking toward the Baptist Church from the depot—Palmer Village

Father Lynch. In 1878 St. Thomas Church was established in Palmer village, and has been a flourishing society under the able leadership of its various priests. A French Catholic church was established at Three Rivers in 1880, for whom a fine church was erected in 1884. St. Bartholomew's Church was organized at Bondsville in 1879, and a house was erected for its worship. It has been under the charge of Father McKearny since its organization. St. Anne's Mission for French people was organized at Bondsville in 1889.

Schools.—Because of the poverty of the people during the preliminary years of settlement no public schools were established in town prior to 1752; the limited instruction gathered by the young people during that period was obtained at home or in the families of the better informed, of which class there were notable examples. In 1752 the town was divided into four districts, and the sum of £10 14s. 4d. was raised for the support of the schools for the ensuing year. One teacher was employed to give instruction in rotation, or about two months in each section. As no school houses were built before 1767 the schools were held in private houses as convenience dictated. Soon after the above date, however, school houses were erected in the five divisions, the house at the Center being completed in 1782. The school houses of those days were very plain structures devoid of ornament or comfort, with a huge fireplace at one end opposite the teacher's desk, with slabs for seats and rough boards for forms, and it is to be feared that the instruction was as crude as the environments. From this humble beginning the schools of Palmer have steadily progressed till they have attained a position second to few in the state, when the ability of the teachers and the up-to-date appointments of the buildings are considered. A high school has been maintained since 1851, but students were not graduated till 1877, since which time the graduates number 219; of this number 29 have become college graduates, 19 have taken partial courses of college study, 6 are graduates of normal schools, 7 have taken partial courses in normal study, 5 are graduates of business colleges, 8 have taken post-graduate seminary studies, 16 are now in college and 4 in business colleges. The graduates who have chosen professions are divided as follows: Teachers 62, clergymen 2, lawyers 4, physicians 4, anaylitical chemist 1, librarian 1, music teachers 2, dentists 2. A graded school is located in each of the four villages, each divided into nine grades. There are also five ungraded district schools. In 1900-1901 there were 1,300 children enrolled, under the charge of 35 teachers. The amount expended for schools in same time was $21,579.65.

Young Men's Library Association was organized December 2, 1878, and incorporated under the general laws of the state.

The corporate members were Rev. Charles H. Eaton, O. P. Allen, Dr. W. H. Stowe, C. B. Fiske, S. H. Hellyat, S. S. Taft, W. A. Lincoln, S. W. French, W. C. Dewey, C. W. Johnson. The library was started by a subscription of $715 for the purchase of books. Since the first year the library has been largely maintained by an annual appropriation by the town. For several years, however, after its organization, rooms for its use were furnished free through the generosity of Mr. M. W. French. In 1890 a few citizens, recognizing the pressing needs of the library, raised $3,000 by subscription and bought a site for a memorial building, which was erected by the town at a cost of $20,000, and dedicated to the use of the library and the post of the G. A. R., April 29, 1891, with an address by Rev. Charles H. Eaton of New York. The library now contains about 6,000 volumes.

Societies.—Palmer is noted for its numerous societies, some of them of long standing. Of the Masonic branches, Thomas Lodge was constituted 1796; Hampden R. A. Chapter organized 1864; Washington Council, R. and S. M., organized 1873, with the auxiliary Revere Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. Of the other societies may be mentioned the Palmer Historical Society, organized May 6, 1899, with these officers: President, J. C. Wing; secretary and treasurer, H. C. Strong; vice-president, Rev. F. B. Harrison; curator, O. P. Allen. This society has done valuable work in preserving many historical papers and relics connected with the town. The I. O. of O. F., Good Cheer Rebekah Lodge, the Knights of Malta, Knights of Columbus, the Red Men, Eastern Hampden Agricultural Society, incorporated 1856; St. Mary's Total Abstinence Society, Royal Arcanum, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, A. O. U. W., Foresters of America, Kings' Daughters, Women's Tuesday Club, Once a Week Club, L. L. Mirrick Post, G. A. R.; Relief Corps, Cyrus W. Cross Camp, S. of V.; Palmer Business and Social Club, Societe de Secours Mutuels.

Cemeteries.—The oldest cemetery is located in the village of Palmer and was set apart by the first settlers, probably in 1729, on the occasion of the death of several children, one of them being Moses, the son of John King, the first settler. The oldest

headstone having an inscription bears date of May 22, 1732. Additions have been made to the grounds at different periods, which now contain about fifteen acres. The cemetery at the Old Center was laid out in 1735, and doubtless the first one buried there was Lieut. Samuel Doolittle, on July 18, 1736. A large number of the early settlers are buried here, but it is used but little at present. A small cemetery was laid out at Three Rivers in 1837, and another at Four Corners in 1851. The Catholic Cemetery, near the Old Center, was laid out in 1863, and the French Catholic Cemetery, near Three Rivers, in 1879. The Palmer Cemetery Association was organized June 18, 1888, for the purpose of caring for the cemetery grounds in the Palmer village, and has been the means of greatly improving the same. In 1898 the town elected three cemetery commissioners, who have the charge of the Protestant cemeteries of the town.

War of the Rebellion.—During the civil war the patriotic spirit of the revolutionary fathers was revived and Palmer promptly met the various calls and furnished 197 men for the service, to whose valiant deeds the Memorial hall has been erected to commemorate. The names of her soldiers have been engraved on marble tablets and placed in the building.

Some Prominent Men of the Past.—Among those most active in shaping the affairs of the town in its early days were the elder William Scott, Steward Southgate, Barnard McNitt, John King, Lieut. Samuel Doolittle, and Duncan Quinton. In the years following the Smiths, Ferrells, McElwains, McClanathans, Shearers. In the revolutionary period we shall ever remember the service of Capt. David Spear, who led the immortal band of forty-four men the day following the Lexington alarm to the relief of their compatriots. Robert Hunter, Lieut. William Scott, Jr., Maj. Aaron Graves, Col. Sylvanus Walker, Capt. David Shaw, Rev. Moses Baldwin, whose pastoral service of fifty years was a bright memory in the darkest period of the town's history, 1762 to 1812. The numerous descendants of John King, the first settler, honored their ancestor's name in town for more than one hundred and fifty years. One of them, Henry King, removed to Pennsylvania and became a member of congress.

Later came Col. Amos Hamilton, Asa Ward, John Ward, Aaron Merrick, Maj. Frank Morgan, John B. Blanchard and sons William, Alonzo, John and Franklin; the Converses, Col. Cyrus Knox, Capt. Jesse and Col. Isaac King, Dr. Aaron King, Joseph Brown, J. B. Merrick, E. B. Gates, G. M. Fiske and Elijah Murdock. This list can be greatly extended by referring to the names found in the list of town officers further on. It would be invidious to select the names of those now living who are well worthy of a place here. They can well wait for a future historian to place them on record.

Clerks of the Elbows Plantation, 1733-1752: Steward Southgate, 1733-1739; David Shaw, 1739; John Thompson, 1740, 1741; John Aplin, 1742, 1746; William Scott, Jr., 1746-1750; Samuel Shaw, Jr., 1750-1752.

Clerks of the District and Town of Palmer: David Shaw, 1752-1753-1754; Barnard McNitt, 1755-1761; Thomas King, 1762-1770; Robert Hunter, Jr., 1771-1786; William Scott, Esq., 1787; Robert Hunter, 1788; John Allen Smith, 1789-1804; Amos Hamilton, 1805-1813; James Stebbins, 1814; Theophilus Knight, 1815-1817; John Frink, 1818-1828; Theophilus H. Knight, 1829-1835; Amos Hamilton, 1836-1840; Horatio G. Hale, 1841; Gamaliel Collins, 1842; John Ward, 1843-1847; William J. Blanchard, 1848; Theophilus H. Knight, 1849-1852; Ebenezer Brown, 1853-1856; James K. Child, 1857; William N. Packard, 1858; Daniel Granger, 1859-1863; Joseph H. Blair, 1864; Lyman Dimock, 1865-1867; James B. Shaw, 1868-1901.

Selectmen: 1752, Seth Shaw, Robert Rogers, John Thompson, Thomas McClanathan, John Aplin; 1753, Seth Shaw, Thomas McClanathan, Robert Rogers, Dunkin Quinton, James Smith, John Thompson, John Aplin; 1754, Barnard McNitt, Hugh McMaster, James Breckinridge, William McClanathan, Robert Farrell, Jr.; 1755, James Breckinridge, John Thompson, Barnard McNitt, Robert Hunter, James Smith, Seth Shaw; 1756, James Breckinridge, Dunkin Quinton, Robert Rogers, Thomas King, Timothy McElwain, Samuel Shaw; 1757, Timothy McElwain, John Thomson, Jonathan Chapin, Seth Shaw, James Smith; 1758, John Thomson, Seth Shaw, Timothy McElwain, Jonathan Chapin,

Samuel Shaw, Jr.; 1759, John Thomson, Seth Shaw, Timothy McElwain, John Smith, John King; 1760, John Thomson, William Scott, Timothy McElwain, Seth Shaw, John King; 1761, John Thomson, William Scott, Seth Shaw, Timothy McElwain, John King; 1762, John Thomson, Seth Shaw, John King, Timothy McElwain, William McClanathan; 1763, William Scott, James Breckinridge, Seth Shaw, John Smith, Robert Rogers; 1764, James Breckinridge, Robert Rogers, Seth Shaw, William McClanathan, John Smith; 1765, William Scott, Seth Shaw, Robert Rogers; 1766, William Scott, Robert Rogers, Seth Shaw; 1767, Seth Shaw, Robert Rogers, William Scott, William McClanathan, Samuel Shaw; 1768, Seth Shaw, Robert Rogers, William Scott, Samuel Shaw, William McClanathan; 1769, Lieut. William Scott, Deacon Seth Shaw, Robert Rogers, Sr., Samuel Shaw, William McClanathan; 1770, Lieut. William Scott, Deacon Seth Shaw, Elder Robert Rogers, Elder William McClanathan, David Spear; 1771, Lieut. William Scott, Phineas Mixter, John McMaster; 1772, Lieut. William Scott, Deacon Seth Shaw, Phineas Mixter, John McMaster, David Spear; 1773, David Spear, Lieut. William Scott, John McMaster, Robert Brown, Robert Ferrell; 1774, Lieut. William Scott, David Spear, John McMaster, Robert Ferrell, Robert Brown; 1775, Lieut. William Scott, Capt. David Spear, Robert Ferrell, Robert Brown, Lieut. Joshua Shaw; 1776, Capt. David Spear, Lieut. Joshua Shaw, James Smith, Thomas King, Capt. Aaron Graves; 1777, Phineas Mixter, Deacon John McMaster, Deacon John Smith, Robert Ferrell, Lieut. Ebenezer Jones; 1778, Capt. David Spear, Deacon Thomas King, Lieut. Joshua Shaw, Capt. David Spear, Aaron Graves, Samuel McClanathan; 1779, Capt. David Spear, Lieut. Joshua Shaw, Capt. Aaron Graves, Robert Hunter, Lieut. Robert McMaster; 1780, Robert Ferrell, Joshua McMaster, Deacon John Smith, John Quinton, Samuel Shaw; 1781, John McMaster, John Quinton, Samuel Shaw, John Rogers, Samuel Cummings; 1782, Capt. David Spear, Maj. Aaron Graves, Francis Breckenridge, John Thomson, Capt. Patrick Watson; 1783, Capt. David Spear, Maj. Aaron Graves, Francis Breckenridge, John Thomson, Lieut. John King; 1784, Maj. Aaron Graves, Lieut. David King,

Francis Breckenridge, John Thomson, Capt. Patrick Watson; 1785, Maj. Aaron Graves, Francis Breckenridge, James Thomson, Lieut. David King, Capt. Patrick Watson; 1786, Maj. Aaron Graves, Lieut. David King, Francis Breckenridge, John Thomson, Capt. Patrick Watson; 1787, Capt. David Spear, Dwight Ward, Lieut. John Hamilton, Jesse King, Lieut. Thomas McClanathan; 1788, Maj. Aaron Graves, Lieut. David King, Lieut. Thomas McClanathan, John Thomson, Capt. Patrick Watson; 1789, Maj. Aaron Graves, Lieut. David King, Lieut. Thomas McClanathan, John Thomson, Capt. David Shaw; 1790, Lieut. David King, Maj. Aaron Graves, Capt. David Shaw, Lieut. Thomas McClanathan, Lieut. James Smith; 1791, Aaron Merrick, Lieut. John Hamilton, Capt. David Shaw; 1792, Aaron Merrick, Lieut. John Hamilton, Capt. David Shaw; 1793, Aaron Merrick, Lieut. John Hamilton, Col. David Shaw, Capt. Thomas McClanathan, Lieut. John King; 1794, Maj. Aaron Graves, Lieut. David King, Capt. David Spear, Lieut. Joshua Shaw, Deacon Samuel McClanathan; 1795, Lieut. David King, Maj. Aaron Graves, Capt. David Spear, Deacon Samuel McClanathan, Deacon Joshua Shaw; 1796, Alpheus Converse, Gordon Sedgwick, Ebenezer Webber, Thomas Hill, Jesse King; 1797, Alpheus Converse, Gordon Sedgwick, Ebenezer Webber, Jesse King, Joseph Smith; 1798, Aaron Merrick, Samuel McClanathan, Timothy Brainerd, Clark McMaster, Solomon Shaw; 1799, Aaron Merrick, Gordon Sedgwick, Capt. Alpheus Converse, Lieut. James Smith, Dr. Jonathan Shearer; 1800, Dr. Jonathan Shearer, Lieut. John Hamilton, Theophilus Knight, Isaac Warren, Daniel Shearer; 1801, Deacon Gordon Sedgwick, Lieut. James Smith, Timothy Brainerd, Capt. Alpheus Converse, Theophilus Knight; 1802, Aaron Merrick, Capt. Thomas McClanathan, Capt. Jesse King, Lieut. William Spear, Daniel Shearer; 1803, Aaron Merrick, Esq., Capt. Thomas McClanathan, Deacon Gordon Sedgwick, Capt. Jesse King, Daniel Shearer; 1804, Capt. Alpheus Converse, Capt. Jesse King, John A. Smith, Isaac Ferrell, Solomon Shaw; 1805, Capt. Jesse King, Ens. Daniel Shearer, Solomon Shaw, Isaac Ferrell, Jacob Converse, Jr.; 1807, Aaron Merrick, Esq., Gordon Sedgwick, Alpheus Converse, Isaac Ferrell, Solo-

mon Shaw; 1808, Capt. Jesse King, Theophilus Knight, Clark McMaster, Amos Hamilton, John King, 3d; 1809, Jesse King, Theophilus Knight, Clark McMaster, Amos Hamilton, John King, 3d; 1810, Capt. Jesse King, Theophilus Knight, Clark McMaster, Amos Hamilton, John King, 3d; 1811, Capt. Jesse King, Theophilus Knight, Clark McMaster, Amos Hamilton, John King, 3d; 1812, Capt. Jesse King, Theophilus Knight, Asa Ward, Enos Rider, Samuel Shaw; 1813, Jesse King, Theophilus Knight, Asa Ward, Enos Rider, Samuel Shaw; 1814, Alpheus Converse, Asa Ward, Enos Rider, Samuel Shaw, Isaac Ferrell; 1815, Jesse King, Asa Ward, John McMaster, Benjamin Cummings, Philip Lamb; 1816, Col. Amos Hamilton, Solomon Shaw, Wilson Foster, John Smith, John Shaw; 1817, Col. Amos Hamilton, Solomon Shaw, Wilson Foster, John Smith, John Shaw; 1818, James Stebbins, Esq., Asa Ward, Robert Smith, Joseph Lee, Elijah Hills; 1819, James Stebbins, Asa Ward, Robert Smith, Joseph Lee, Jr., Elijah Hills; 1820, James Stebbins, Wilson Foster, Joseph Lee, Jr.; 1821, Col. Amos Hamilton, Asa Ward, Calvin White; 1822, Col. Amos Hamilton, Clark McMaster, Daniel King; 1823, Col. Amos Hamilton, Capt. Daniel King, Capt. Jonathan Moore; 1824, Col. Amos Hamilton, Joseph Lee, Jr., Noah Stimson; 1825, James Stebbins, Esq., Asa Ward, Zadock Cooley, Reuben Shaw, Elias Turner; 1826, John Frink, Lebbeus Chapin, Calvin Ward, Cyrus Knox, John Sedgwick, 1827, John Frink, Calvin Ward, Cyrus Knox, John Sedgwick, John B. Blanchard; 1828, Col. Amos Hamilton, Sylvester Parks, Robert Hitchcock, Jonathan Moore, Jr., Isaac King; 1829, Capt. Sylvester Parks, Robert Hitchcock, Col. Isaac King, Emelius Bond, Truman Smith; 1830, John Frink, Joseph Lee, Jr., Cyrus Knox; 1831, John Sedgwick, Capt. Timothy Ferrell, Truman Smith; 1832, Col. Cyrus Knox, Capt. Truman Smith, Clark McMaster; 1833, Elisha Converse, Jr., Leonard Davis, Alonzo V. Blanchard; 1834, Col. Cyrus Knox, Joseph Brown, 2d, Leonard Davis; 1835, Col. Cyrus Knox, Clark McMaster, John Ward; 1836, John Ward, Abel Calkin, Marble K. Ferrell, Ralph Green, William J. Blanchard; 1837, John Ward, Abel Calkin, Marble K. Ferrell, Ralph Green, William J. Blanchard; 1838, John

Ward, William J. Blanchard, David S. Paine, Pliny Cooley, Philetus W. Burnett; 1839, John Ward, Pliny Cooley, Eliphalet Hancock, Royal Buffington, A. V. Blanchard; 1840, Sylvester Parks, John Gammell, Royal Buffington; 1841, John Gammell, A. V. Blanchard, P. W. Burnett, Gilbert Barker, Merrick Cooley; 1842, A. V. Blanchard, Asa Shumway, Moses Barnes; 1843, A. V. Blanchard, Asa Shumway, P. W. Burnett, Abner Allen, Jr., Jedediah A. Paine; 1844, Abel Calkins, Abner Allen, Jr., James Gammell, Benjamin Davis, John D. Blanchard; 1845, James Gammell, Marble K. Ferrell, J. D. Blanchard, Gilbert Barker, Absalom C. Peck; 1847, Keyes Foster, Isaac King, W. J. Blanchard, Rufus Brown, Sylvester Parks; 1848, Sylvester Parks, Isaac King, K. Foster, Joseph C. Burgess, Horace Hunn; 1849, A. V. Blanchard, M. K. Ferrell, Perry Hastings, Enos Calkins, Cyrus Knox; 1850, A. V. Blanchard, Cyrus Knox, M. K. Ferrell, Enos Calkins, Rozel Hastings; 1851, Cyrus Knox, A. V. Blanchard, M. K. Ferrell; 1852, A. V. Blanchard, Enos Calkins, George Moores; 1853, John A. Squires, Enos Calkins; 1854, Gilbert Barker, George Moores, J. A. Squires; 1855, Horace Hunn, Nathan Howard, David Knox; 1856, Horace Hunn, Nathan Howard, David Knox; 1857, Horace Hunn, George Moores, Solomon R. Lawrence; 1858, Hunn, Moores and Lawrence; 1859, S. R. Lawrence, Geo. Moores, James S. Loomis; 1860, Geo. Moores, J. S. Loomis, Gilbert Barker; 1861, Geo. Moores, J. S. Loomis, Abel Webber; 1862, J. S. Loomis, A. Webber, Nathan Howard; 1863, A. Webber, E. B. Gates, Parker W. Webster; 1864, same board; 1865, Enos Calkins, E. B. Gates, George Moores; 1866, E. Calkins, Geo. Moores, J. E. Crane; 1867, same board; 1868, W. W. Cross, J. E. Crane, P. W. Webster; 1869, J. S. Loomis, E. G. Murdock, P. W. Webster; 1870-1871-1872, same board; 1873, E. G. Murdock, P. W. Webster, T. D. Potter; 1874, Ebenezer Brown, O. B. Smith, J. O. Hamilton; 1875, J. O. Hamilton, Enos Calkins, E. B. Gates; 1876, J. O. Hamilton, E. Calkins, Geo. Moores; 1877, James O. Hamilton, P. W. Webster, Joseph Kerigan; 1878, O. B. Smith, Henry P. Holden, Joseph Kerigan; 1879, Albert H. Willis, F. A. Packard, Joseph Kerigan; 1880, F. A. Packard, Joseph Kerigan, Charles E. Dewey; 1881, E. G. Mur-

dock, Henry G. Loomis, Henry McMaster; 1882, same board; 1883, H. G. Loomis, Elbridge G. Hastings, J. Kerigan; 1884, H. G. Loomis, J. Kerigan, Davis B. Bishop; 1885, Chas. D. Holbrook, Charles L. Holden, Joseph Kerigan; 1886, J. Kerigan, Samuel H. Hellyat, Capt. H. E. W. Clark; 1887, H. E. W. Clark, Daniel F. Holden, Joseph Kerigan; 1888, D. L. Holden, William H. Brainerd, Joseph Kerigan; 1889, W. H. Brainerd, Michael J. Dillon, Joseph L. Holbrook; 1890, H. P. Marcy, M. J. Dillon, W. H. Brainerd; 1891, W. H. Brainerd, Chas. E. Getchell, John F. Twiss; 1892, same board; 1893, H. P. Holden, C. E. Getchell, J. F. Twiss; 1894, same board; 1895, J. F. Twiss, Chas. T. Brainerd, Geo. M. Atkins; 1896, same board; 1897, same board; 1898, M. J. Dillon, Chas. L. Holden, G. M. Atkins; 1899, M. J. Dillon, Chas. L. Holden, Chas. T. Brainerd; 1900, Geo. M. Atkins, C. H. Hobbs, John F. Twiss; 1901, John F. Twiss, C. H. Hobbs.

Physicians.—The records fail to disclose the name of a resident physician prior to 1764, when Dr. Jabez Lamb settled in town and practiced his art. As Dr. John Sherman settled in Brimfield before 1730, he was probably called by Palmer people when in need of his services. Calvin Scott, a college graduate, followed, 1778-1800; Benjamin Trask, 1779; Jonathan Shearer, 1794-1828; Nathan Cummings, 1799; Anson Moody, 1819; J. N. Hastings, 1820; Aaron King, 1824-1861; Marcus M. Shearer, 1826-1854; Amasa Davis, 1839-1869; Reuben Barron, 1843-1858; J. B. Thomas, 1845-1880; George W. Burke, 1845-1850; Andrew J. White, 1846-1850; William Holbrook, 1848-1901; E. E. Wilder, 1853; William Blair, 1854; N. Barnes, 1854-1859; Porter Davis, 1820-1824; A. M. Higgins, 1856-1867; George N. Nichols ,1857; G. F. Forbes, 1857; Samuel Shaw, 1857; F. W. Calkins, 1860-1864; J. W. Comins, 1861-1865; B. R. Johnson, 1862; E. B. Lyon, 1863-1865; Isaac Manning, 1863-1865; Silas Ruggles, 1866-1889; J. K. Warren, 1870-1882; W. H. Stowe, 1876-1895; H. A. Smith, 1878 to present time; W. E. Holbrook, 1879-1882; John Rand, J. B. Hyland, G. H. Wilkins, 1882 to the present time; E. Sirois, 1884 and 1892; M. H. Davis, 1886-1890; J. J. Flynn, 1886-1891; John Wilbur, 1887-1895; A. O. Squares, 1889-

1891; W. H. Bliss, 1891-1899; J. A. Dorval, 1891-1893; H. M. Auger, 1891-1893; J. C. Boulay, 1893-1900; J. H. Desmaris, 1893-1894; L. H. Hendee, 1894-1901; J. P. Schneider, 1895 to the present; G. Lafontaine, 1896-1899; S. O. Miller, 1900; Geo. J. Hebert, 1900; Chas. H. Giroux, 1900, T. C. Dorval, 1900; J. H. Miller, 1901. There were a few others whose stay was short.

Lawyers.—William Scott, Jr., was the first resident lawyer of Palmer, grad. H. U. 1771. He studied with Lawyer Pynchon of Springfield some time, and was then appointed justice of the peace for Palmer in 1774. He had an extensive legal business till 1793, when he removed from town. Daniel Shearer, 1800-1820; James Stebbins, W. C., 1807; practiced in Palmer from 1813 for many years; Calvin Torry, 1841-1858; S. T. Spaulding, A. C., 1839, a short time after 1844; B. B. Whittemore, H. U., 1839, from 1844, a short time; Samuel Flemming, H. U., from 1847 to 1850; M. Barlow, 1852, for a short time; Fred T. Wallace, 1848-1854; James G. Allen, 1853-1878, and judge of the Eastern Hampden Court from 1872-1878; Daniel Granger, 1857-1861; Joseph H. Blair, 1862-1865; Chas. L. Gardner, 1867-1897; R. P. Barlow, 1870-1871; J. W. Cochran, 1870; Stephen S. Taft, H. U., 1870, from 1872 to 1895; A. R. Barker, 1879; H. C. Strong ,A. C., 1875, and H. U., from 1879 till his death, 1900; Thos. K. Kenefick, H. U. 1877, from 1879 to present time, W. W. Leach, Tufts C., 1880, from 1883 to present time, now judge Eastern Hampden Court; A. R. Fitch, Iowa State U., 1833, from 1888 to present time, clerk of the Eastern Hampden Court since 1896; Richard F. Twiss, A. C., 1896, from 1897 till his death, 1899; David F. Dillon, Tufts C., 1896, Mich. U., 1899, from 1899 to present time; Ernest E. Hobson, Maine U., 1900, from 1900 to present time. Of the foregoing Messrs, Scott, Shearer, Fleming, Strong, Twiss, Dillon and Hobson were natives of Palmer.

Representatives to the General Court.—Capt. David Spear, 1776; Lieut. William Scott, 1777; voted not to send, 1778; Capt. David Spear, 1779; voted not to send, 1780, 1781; Capt. David Spear, 1782, 1783, 1784; William Scott, 1785; Capt. David

Spear, 1786; Capt. David Shaw, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792; Col. David Shaw, 1793; Capt. Thomas McClanathan, 1794; Capt. David Spear, 1795; Lieut. David King, 1796; Lieut. James Smith, 1797; Isaac Warren, 1798; Aaron Merrick, 1799; Lieut. James Smith, 1800, 1801, 1802; Aaron Merrick, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808; Capt. Jesse King, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812; Capt. Alpheus Converse, 1813, 1814; Capt. Jesse King, 1815; Col. Amos Hamilton, 1816, 1817; James Stebbins, 1818; voted not to send, 1819; James Stebbins, 1820; Clark McMaster, 1821, 1822; voted not to send, 1823; John Frink, 1824; voted not to send, 1825; Asa Ward, 1826; voted not to send, 1827; Capt. Daniel King, 1828; John Sedgwick, 1829; Col. Cyrus Knox, 1830; Joseph Lee, 1831, 1832; Capt. Daniel King, 1833; Robert Hitchcock, 1834; Col. Cyrus Knox, 1835; Emelius Bond and Alonzo V. Blanchard, 1836; Sylvester Parks and John Ward, 1837; Marble K. Ferrell and Abel Calkins, 1838; James Gammell and William J. Blanchard, 1839; Franklin Morgan and Asa Shumway, 1840; Olney Goff, 1841; John Ward, 1842; Abel Calkins, 1843; Gilbert Barker, 1844; Alonzo V. Blanchard, 1845; Lambert Allen, 1846; Alonzo V. Blanchard, 1847; Calvin Torrey and Jacob B. Merrick, 1848; Jacob B. Merrick, 1849; John D. Blanchard, 1850; Joseph Brown, Jr., 1851; Amos C. Billings, 1852; Enos Calkins, 1853; Gilbert Barker, 1854; Elijah G. Murdock, 1855; Capt. Alonzo N. Dewey, 1856; Sylvanus G. Shaw, 1857; Solomon A. Fay, 1858; Henry Scism, 1859; John Clough, 1860; Solomon R. Lawrence, 1861; Stephen G. Newton, 1862; James S. Loomis, 1863; Col. Jacob Stever, 1864; David Knox, 1865; Ephraim B. Gates, 1866; James G. Allen, 1867. Following the last date above, Palmer, as a part of a Representative District, has furnished these representatives from her own town: Rev. Joseph Vaill, D. D., 1869, who died in office, and Lyman Dimock was chosen to fill the vacancy; Ebenezer Brown, 1871; James B. Shaw, 1872; Charles L. Gardner, 1875, 1876; Timothy D. Potter, 1878; Joseph F. Holbrook, 1880; Dr. William Holbrook, 1882; Oren B. Smith, 1884; Stephen S. Taft, 1886, 1887; William W. Leach, 1889; Horace Saunders, 1890; Capt. H. E. W. Clark, 1891, 1892; Henry G. Loomis, 1893; Thomas W. Kenefick, 1895, 1896, 1897; Elbridge G. Hastings, 1901.

Palmer of To-day.—According to the census of 1900 Palmer contains 7,801 inhabitants; its valuation is $2,819,837. The village of Palmer is the center of a street car system which connects it with the other three villages of the town, with Monson and Ware, with Wilbraham, Ludlow and Springfield. Each of its four villages has railroad connections, post-offices and express offices, schools and churches. Its mills are prosperous and in full operation. It has a beautiful summer resort at Forest Lake—the Pottaquattuck of Indian times—which yearly grows in popular favor and attracts visitors from far and near. The town contains a great variety of scenery, contributed by its three rivers, its four villages, its green robed valleys and hills and rivers, its four villages, its green-robed valleys and hills and its quite retreats of sylvan shade where one wearied with turmoil of busy streets can retire and find perfect rest and peace in communion with nature. The easy access which the town commands from all points attracts many visitors who wish to enjoy a day of rural life.

CHAPTER III

THE TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

On the eastern and western borders of the territory comprising the original town of Springfield were strips of land which, for many years after the colony was planted at Agawam, were unoccupied, and while within the limits of the town there was no attempt at their improvement or allotment among the persons comprising the Pynchon proprietary. The lands bordering on the Connecticut, on both sides, were known as the "plain lands", and lying next east and west were the strips known as the "inner commons". Outside of the latter, on the borders of the town lay the "outward commons", the strip on the east side under the latter designation including nearly all that now comprises Wilbraham.

Owing to the strict requirements laid upon all settlers on the plantation at Springfield, together with the constantly increasing suspicion of unfriendliness on the part of the Indians of the region, there was little attempt at settlement outside the plain lands on the river, while the inner common lands were developed only for such purposes as did not require a residence there on the part of the owner. The outward common on the east side of the town comprised much mountainous and barren land and was regarded as of little value for farming purposes, while vast areas were stripped of their natural forest growths, having been burned into that condition by former Indian occupants.

Inasmuch as these outward common lands on the east side of the mother town were of little real value, the proprietors had made no division of them, and because of this fact Governor Edmund Andros threatened to confiscate them and forfeit the charter of the Pynchon colony. Then the proprietors took action, and caused a survey and allotment to be made, dividing the lands among one hundred and twenty-three owners, according to the polls, and reserving a ministry and also a school lot. This action saved the lands to the town, but the division was of no other real value at the time. A regular survey was made in 1729, and a more systematic division was made in 1740, among about 400 owners; and a third allotment was made in 1754, among 544 persons. These surveys and divisions, however, were not made to the satisfaction of the inhabitants, and through a little system of political manouvering the Pynchon interests secured the most desirable tracts.

Settlement.—The settlement of Wilbraham did not result directly from the first allotment of the lands among the proprietors, and it was not until about forty-five years afterward that the pioneer white man came into the region. In the early summer of 1730 Nathaniel Hitchcock left the settlement at Springfield and came to the outward common on the east. He built a cabin, cleared a small tract of about two acres, sowed a field with wheat, and then, after having made his proposed new home as comfortable as possible, returned to Springfield for the

winter. In May of the next year he brought hither his young wife and made the first permanent settlement in what now is Wilbraham, nine miles distant from the seat of the mother colony. Here the family lived alone until the following year, when Noah Alvord came and settled near the pioneer's land. In 1733 Daniel Warner came, and in 1734 Nathaniel Warriner located and made the fourth settler. In the early history of Springfield these men had taken an active part in passing events, the surname Warriner having an especial prominence in the town.

The Washington Tavern, North Wilbraham

The progress of settlement was indeed rapid during the first ten years after the coming of the pioneer, and among the many who came to this portion of the outward commons previous to 1741 (the year in which the inhabitants here were established as the fourth precinct of Springfield), there may be recalled the names of Moses Burt, Samuel Warner, Samuel Stebbins, David Merrick, John Jones, Abel Bliss, Daniel Lamb, Thomas Merrick, David Warriner, Isaac Brewer, David Chapin, Moses Bartlett, Nathaniel Bliss, Aaron and Daniel Parsons, Benjamin Warriner, Cornelius Webb, Henry Wright, Benjamin Wight, Joseph Sikes, Thomas Glover, all of whom are believed to have come out into

this eastern region from the principal settlement at Springfield, and nearly all of whom were descended from the earliest settlers in the plantation on the east bank of the Connecticut.

If the reader will turn to the early history of Springfield there will be found mention of each of the surnames above given and it will also be seen that these first settlers in Wilbraham were descended from ancestors who came into the Connecticut valley almost a century before the outposts of civilization were planted among the rugged hills of the old fourth precinct—that which we now call Wilbraham. And, if local tradition be true, these settlers were of the same hardy stock, of the same determined character, and of the same devout religious spirit as were those who founded the plantation on the Connecticut a century before. All these settlers were located in that part which now forms Wilbraham, and there seems not to have been any development in the region southward until several years later. However, among the others who came into the fourth precinct soon after it was established as such we may mention the names of Jonathan Ely, Caleb Stebbins, Daniel Cadwell, Philip Lyon, Benoni Atchinson and Ezra Barker.

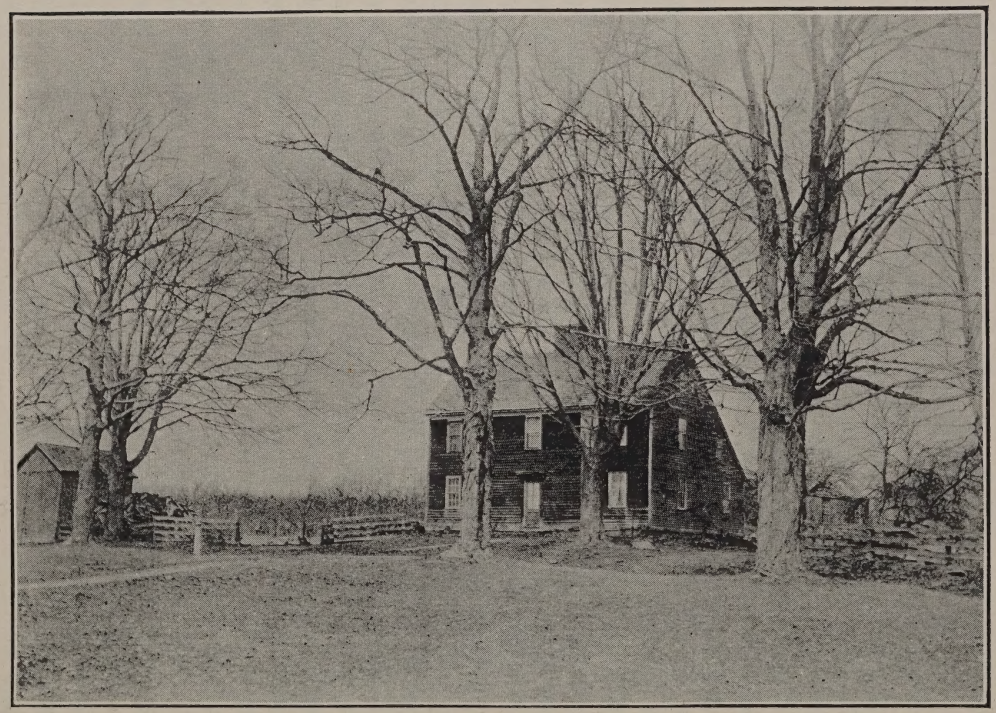
In our allusion to the pioneers and the early settlement of the town we have added little to the mere mention of the names of the settlers; and this for the reason that Wilbraham is furnished with an extended and carefully prepared historical record, which treats both of events of early life and times and of gencalogy to a considerable extent. In this respect the town is fortunately provided, and the writer, Dr. Stebbins, seems to have thoroughly covered the entire subject of local history. It is not that the present writer regards these things as of minor importance that he does not mention them here in detail, but rather that the earlier record is so complete and reliable that there is no present necessity to republish the family genealogies of the town.

Notwithstanding the rugged character of the land surface in this part of the mother town, no less than twenty-six settlers established themselves here between the years 1731 and 1741. Their domestic wants were few and were easily supplied, but

that which caused the greatest inconvenience to their families was the distance from the established church, hence the early formed desire to be set off as a separate parish or precinct. As early as January, 1739, the inhabitants of Springfield in town meeting granted to "the people of the mountains" preaching services for ten Sabbaths at 20 shillings per Sabbath; and in March, 1740, the Longmeadow parish accorded like privileges to the people of the outward commons east of their own precinct, or to that part of Wilbraham which now is Hampden.

This favor, however, did not satisfy the full desire of the inhabitants and on May 7, 1740, they addressed a petition to the general court and commissioned Thomas Merrick, 2d, and Abel Bliss to represent them before that body in an application to be set off as a separate precinct, that they might be enabled to settle a minister and build a meeting house, and thus "maintain the gospel" among themselves. This formal petition was signed by 24 of the inhabitants, which, with the names of Thomas Merrick, 2d, and Abel Bliss, represented all the settlers on the outward commons at that time. The signers were Joseph Sikes, Daniel Lamb, Daniel Parsons, Benjamin Wight, Henry Wright, Thomas Glover, Cornelius Webb, Daniel Warner, Moses Bartlett, Noah Alvord, Samuel Stebbins, jun., David Chapin, jun., David Merrick, David Warriner, David Jones, Isaac Brewer, Samuel Warner, 2d, Aaron Parsons, Nathaniel Hitchcock, Nathaniel Warriner, Nathaniel Bliss, 2d, Benjamin Warriner, Samuel Bartlett and Moses Burt.

Agreeable to the prayer of the petitioners, on January 6, 1741, an act of the general court of the colony established the "Fourth Precinct of Springfield", including within its boundaries substantially the territory of the present towns of Wilbraham and Hampden, and vesting the inhabitants thereof with all the powers, privileges and immunities, and subject to the obligations, of other precincts. The first meeting of inhabitants for the selection of precinct officers was held at the house of David "Mirick" (Merrick), March 12, 1741, at which time William Pynchon, magistrate, was chosen moderator to conduct the meeting. The following precinct officers were then chosen:



Old house built by Lieutenant Mirick

On Springfield Mountain, in 1761

David Merrick, clerk; Thomas Merrick, 2d, Isaac Brewer, Nathaniel Warriner, committee of the precinct (the duties of the committee were similar to those of the selectmen of towns); Isaac Brewer, treasurer; David Merrick, Thomas Merrick, 2d, Samuel Stebbins, assessors; Nathaniel Warriner, collector.

This condition of corporate existence was continued until June 15, 1763, when the precinct became a town with all the powers and privileges of such. Under the precinct or parish organization the corporate privileges were limited and that character was assumed chiefly for the administration of the religious affairs of the community, which at that time were regarded of greater importance, even in town regulation, than the civil rights and duties of the inhabitants. However, within less than ten years after the incorporation of the precinct, having more than the necessary forty families within its borders, there arose a demand for full town privileges; but this suggestion was opposed by the authorities of the mother town on the ground that the precinct still needed the protection and support of the older jurisdiction, while in fact the latter was only reluctant to become separated from the flourishing little colony which had been established on the outward commons. Thus it was that our town of Wilbraham retained its precinct character for fully fifteen years after it was entitled to town privileges. The inhabitants here time and again appealed to the general court for full separation, but unsuccessfully, as Springfield had greater influence with the legislative power.

At length, however, after three several attempts to establish a district during the year 1762, the town of Springfield at a meeting held May 17, 1763, voted to grant the prayer of the petitioners of the fourth precinct; and agreeably thereto, on June 15, the general court passed "An act for incorporating the Fourth parish of Springfield in the county of Hampshire, into a separate town by the name of Wilbraham". The territory of the town, according to the act, comprised the region previously known as the Fourth parish in Springfield, with the addition of half a mile west from the west line of the parish, and from the "Chicobee" (Chicopee) river on the north to the line of the town of Somers (Conn.) on the south.

The new creation was granted all the powers and privileges of other towns in the province; except that of electing a separate representative to the general court. In this selection the town joined with Springfield until 1786, when it was accorded full town powers. During the period of parish character, the committee of the precinct for each year was as follows:

Committee of the Precinct.—1741, Thomas Merrick, Isaac Brewer, Nathaniel Warriner; 1742, Daniel Warner, Nathaniel Hitchcock, Moses Burt; 1743, Stephen Stebbins, Nathaniel Warriner, Moses Burt; 1744, Thomas Merrick, Nathaniel Bliss, David Jones; 1745, Nathaniel Warriner, John Jones, Stephen Stebbins; 1746, Nathaniel Warriner, Nathaniel Bliss, Moses Burt; 1747, John Jones, Daniel Warner, John Hitchcock; 1748, Thomas Merrick, John Hitchcock, Nathaniel Bliss; 1749, Nathaniel Warriner, Daniel Warner, Simeon Willard; 1750, Nathaniel Bliss, Daniel Cadwell, Aaron Stebbins; 1751, Thomas Merrick, James Warriner, Nathaniel Bliss; 1752, John Hitchcock, jun., Caleb Stebbins, Thomas Merrick; 1753, John Hitchcock, jun., Daniel Warner, Ezra Barker; 1754, John Hitchcock, jun., James Warriner, jun., Daniel Warner; 1755, Moses Burt, Isaac Brewer, James Warriner, jun.; 1756, Daniel Cadwell, James Warriner, Daniel Warner; 1757, Moses Burt, Daniel Cadwell, Daniel Warner; 1758, Moses Burt, Daniel Cadwell, James Warriner; 1759-61, Daniel Cadwell, James Warriner, jun., Daniel Warner; 1762, Ezra Barker, Daniel Cadwell, Daniel Warner; 1763, Ezra Barker, Phineas Newton, Daniel Warner.

During the same period the clerks of the precinct were David Merrick, 1741-55, and Isaac Brewer, 1756-63.

Town Organization.—The incorporating act directed John Worthington to issue his warrant for the first town meeting in Wilbraham, and to fix the date and place holding the same. In pursuance thereof the inhabitants met at the "town meeting house", chose Lieut. Thomas Merrick moderator, Ezra Barker, town clerk, and then adjourned to allow the latter to proceed to Springfield and take the required oath of office, for there was no magistrate in the Fourth parish at that time. On the following day the electors reassembled and chose a full board of town

officers. The succession of selectmen and town clerks from 1764 to 1901 is as follows:

Selectmen.—1764-67, Thomas Merrick, Nathaniel Warriner, Stephen Stebbins; 1768, Nathaniel Warriner, Thomas Merrick, John Bliss; 1769, Daniel Cadwell, James Warriner, Nathaniel Warriner, William King, John Bliss; 1770, Nathaniel Warriner, William King, John Bliss, Caleb Stebbins, James Warriner; 1771-75, Nathaniel Warriner, James Warriner, John Bliss; 1776-77, James Warriner, John Hitchcock, John Bliss; 1778, James Warriner, John Hitchcock, John Bliss, Daniel Cadwell, Eleazer Smith; 1779, John Hitchcock, John Bliss, Eleazer Smith; 1780, John Hitchcock, John Bliss, James Warriner; 1781, John Hitchcock, James Warriner, Abner Chapin; 1782, David Burt, Zebulon Chapin, Abner Chapin; 1783-84, James Warriner, Phineas Stebbins, John Stearns; 1785, John Stearns, Phineas Stebbins, Gideon Burt; 1786, Gideon Burt, David Burt, Phineas Stebbins; 1787-88, Gideon Burt, Phineas Stebbins, Noah Stebbins; 1789, Oliver Bliss, Robert Sessions, Phineas Stebbins; 1790-91, James Shaw, Robert Sessions, Gideon Burt; 1792, Gideon Burt, James Shaw, Noah Stebbins; 1793, Robert Sessions, James Shaw, Gideon Burt; 1794, John Hitchcock, James Shaw, Robert Sessions; 1795, James Shaw, Phineas Stebbins, Robert Sessions; 1796-97, James Shaw, Gideon Burt, Robert Sessions; 1798, Phineas Stebbins, Joseph Lathrop, Robert Sessions; 1799, Gideon Burt, James Shaw, Steward Beebe; 1800, Levi Bliss, Steward Beebe, William Brewer; 1801, Timothy Burt, Levi Bliss, Steward Beebe; 1802, Levi Bliss, Steward Beebe, Robert Sessions; 1803, William Brewer, Robert Sessions, Steward Beebe; 1804, William Rindge, Robert Sessions, Steward Beebe; 1805, William Brewer, William Rindge, Joel Lyman; 1806, William Rindge, Joel Lyman, Solomon Wright; 1807, Joel Lyman, Augustus Sisson, Solomon Wright; 1808, Robert Sessions, William Rindge, Augustus Sisson; 1809, Robert Sessions, William Rindge, William Clark; 1810, Augustus Sisson, Walter Stebbins, Nathan Alden; 1811, Abel Bliss, Augustus Sisson, Nathan Alden; 1812, Joseph Lathrop, William Clark, Moses Burt; 1813-16, Joseph Lathrop, Moses Burt, Daniel Shaw;

1817-18, Daniel Isham, Moses Burt, Chester Sexton; 1819, Abel Bliss, jun., Enoch Crocker, William Wood; 1820-22; Abel Bliss, jun., William Wood, Enoch Crocker; 1823, William Wood, Enoch Crocker, William Clark; 1824, Abraham Avery, Dudley D. Post, Nathan Alden; 1825, Abraham Avery, Dudley D. Post, Thomas Glover; 1826, David Stebbins, Noah Merrick, John McCray, jun.; 1827-28, David Stebbins, Jonathan Ely, John McCray; 1829, Calvin Stebbins, Comfort Chaffee, Daniel Isham; 1830, Calvin Stebbins, John Carpenter, Jacob B. Merrick; 1831, John Carpenter, Joseph Morris, Abraham Avery; 1832, John Carpenter, Luther Brewer, Beriah Smith; 1833, Luther Brewer, Beriah Smith, Pliny Merrick; 1834, Stephen Stebbins, Nathaniel Pease, Seth Moulton; 1835-36, Stephen Stebbins, Walter Stebgins, Pliny Merrick; 1837, Stephen Stebbins, John McCray, Jonathan Burt; 1838, Stephen Stebbins, William V. Sessions, Jesse W. Rice; 1839, Stephen Stebbins, John Carpenter, Timothy Brewer; 1840, Abraham Avery, Jesse W. Rice, Aaron Warner; 1841, Abraham Avery, Samuel B. Stebbins, Jonathan Burt; 1842-43, Samuel Beebe, Luther B. Bliss, Roderick Merrick; 1844, Philip P. Potter, Aaron Goodwell, John Smith; 1845, William V. Sessions, John V. Morris, Jonathan Burt; 1846, John McCray, Shubal Pease, Peter Knowlton; 1847, John G. Perrin, Pliny Merrick, Shubal Pease; 1848-49, Samuel Beebe, Luther B. Bliss, Seth Knowlton; 1850, John G. Perrin, Pliny Merrick, Hiram Hendrick; 1851, Samuel Beebe, Joel M. Lyman, Robert A. Sessions; 1852, Samuel Beebe, Robert A. Sessions, John M. Merrick; 1853, Philip P. Potter, Aaron Goodwell, James M. Brewer; 1854, John W. Langdon, Porter Cross, H. B. Brewer; 1855, Joseph Mix Gregory, Sullivan U. Staunton, Eleazer Scripter; 1856, Eleazer Scripter, Sullivan U. Staunton, Benjamin Butler; 1857, John Baldwin, Samuel Warner, Henry Burt; 1858, John Baldwin, Henry Burt, Samuel Beebe; 1859, Samuel Beebe, John Baldwin, William P. Chaffee; 1860, Samuel Beebe, Philip P. Potter, William P. Chaffee; 1861, Philip P. Potter, William V. Sessions, Horace Clark; 1862, Horace Clark, Marcus Beebe, Hiram Hendricks; 1863, Horace Clark, Porter Cross, Walter Hitchcock; 1864, John Baldwin, Horace Clark, Sumner

Smith; 1865-66, John Baldwin, Sumner Smith, William R. Sessions; 1867, Francis J. Warner, Abner C. Burley, William H. Lyman; 1868, Francis J. Warner, William H. Lyman, John W. Langdon; 1869, Porter Cross, John W. Langdon, Lyman G. Kellogg; 1870, John Ormsby, William R. Sessions, Francis E. Clark; 1871-72, William R. Sessions, Ira G. Potter, Francis E. Clark; 1873, Francis E. Clark, William R. Sessions, Albert Bedurtha; 1874, Francis E. Clark, William H. Warren, Albert Bedurtha; 1875, M. F. Beebe, Sullivan U. Staunton, Erasmus B. Gates; 1876, Marcus F. Beebe, Francis E. Clark, Albert Bedurtha; 1877, Francis E. Clark, William R. Sessions, F. W. Dickinson; 1878, William R. Sessions, Francis E. Clark, F. W. Dickinson; 1879, Francis E. Clark, Ira G. Potter, Marcus F. Beebe; 1880, Francis E. Clark, Marcus F. Beebe, Philip Potter; 1881, Marcus F. Beebe, Philip P. Potter, A. J. Blanchard; 1882, Marcus F. Beebe, A. J. Blanchard, Hiram Danks; 1884, M. F. Beebe, Hiram Danks, P. P. Potter; 1885, M. F. Beebe, Henry Clark, E. H. Cutler; 1886, M. F. Beebe, Henry Clark, P. P. Potter; 1887, Henry Cutler, Henry Clark, P. P. Potter; 1888-89, Henry Cutler, P. P. Potter, Anson C. Brewer; 1890, W. F. Morgan, Jason Butler, C. E. Stacy; 1891, W. F. Morgan, Jason Butler, J. L. Rice; 1892-95, W. F. Morgan, Henry Clark, Jesse L. Rice; 1896, Henry Clark, Jesse L. Rice, E. M. Scott; 1897, E. M. Scott, Alvin Chilson, F. W. Green; 1898-1901, Jason Butler, Henry Clark, F. W. Green.

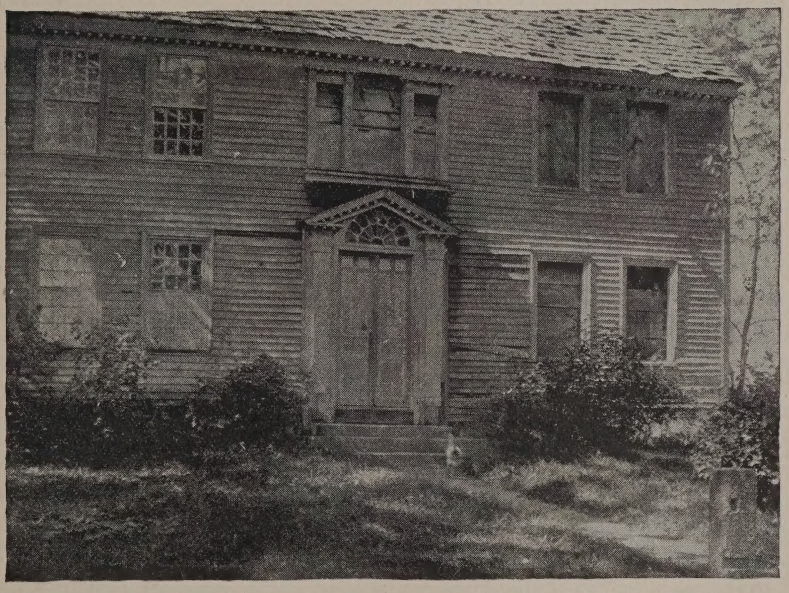
Town Clerks.—Ezra Barker, 1763-73; James Warriner, 1773-78; Noah Warriner, 1779-80; James Warriner, 1781-85; Pliny Merrick, 1785-86; Samuel S. Merrick, 1786-90; John Buckland, 1791-92; Daniel Dana, 1793; Robert Sessions, 1793-1805; Philip Morgan, 1805-10; Augustus Sisson, 1810-11; Abel Bliss, 1811-12; Philip Morgan, 1812-14; Moses Burt, 1814-20; Calvin Stebbins, 1820-24; Luther Brewer, 1824-25; William Wood, 1826; Luther Brewer, 1826-27; John McCray, 1828; Sylvanus Stebbins, 1829-36; Luther Brewer, 1837-38; Luther B. Bliss, 1839; John M. Merrick, 1840-41; John McCray, 1842; Roderick S. Merrick, 1843-47; Solomon C. Spellman, 1848-49; Jesse W. Rice, 1850; Luther B. Bliss, 1851-52; Horace M. Ses-

sions, 1853-54; Roderick Burt, 1855; Ralph Glover, 1856; William P. Spellman, 1857-58; H. Bridgman Brewer, 1859-60; Howard Staunton, 1861; James Staunton, 1862; John M. Merrick, 1863-64; Gilbert Rockwood, 1865-66; Francis E. Clark, 1867-68; Sullivan U. Staunton, 1869-70; Robert R. Wright, jun., 1871; Chauncey C. Peck, 1872; William P. Spellman, 1873-74; Erasmus B. Gates, 1875-79; Charles E. Stacey, 1880-85; W. E. Stone, 1886-89; Henry Cutler, 1890; Charles E. Stacey, 1891-97; Frank A. Fuller, 1898-1901.

In one of the earlier chapters of this work the reader will find the names of Wilbraham's representatives in the general court, and also the names of those who have been elected to the senate since the creation of Hampden county in 1812. But previous to that time this town was represented in the lower house of the legislature by some of the strongest men in all the region, and in the present connection a mention of their names is appropriate. John Bliss represented the town in 1773, 1793-4, 1796-1803; Phineas Stebbins, 1786-88 and 1805; William Rindge and Solomon Wright, 1807; William Rindge and Augustus Sisson, 1809; Augustus Sisson and Walter Stebbins, 1810; Walter Stebbins and Abel Bliss, jun., in 1811.

From all that is stated, in preceding paragraphs, it must be seen that the settlement and development of the lands in Wilbraham was rapidly accomplished. This is true especially of that part of the town now known as Wilbraham, while in the southern portion, originally known as the south parish, later as South Wilbraham and now Hampden, there were no white inhabitants previous to 1741. On the separate organization of the town, the inhabitants first gave attention to the establishment of schools, the laying out of highways and the opening of new lands to attract settlers. From 1741 to 1764 the number of settlers was greatly increased, and during that period and the score of years immediately following, many new families were added to the town's population. Glancing over the records of the middle period of Wilbraham history, we discover such names as Stephen Stebbins, Aaron Stebbins, Lewis Langdon (builder of the first saw mill in 1750), Abner Chapin (from the old Chicopee family

of Chapins and a descendant of Deacon Samuel Chapin, the Puritan, whose statue in bronze adorns the library park in Springfield), Capt. Paul Langdon (who brought the first four-wheeled vehicle into the town), William King, William Stacey (whose descendants in later years have been prominent figures in local history), Moses Stebbins, Comfort Chaffee, Henry Badger, Isaac Morris, Benjamin Skinner, Jabez Hendrick, Daniel Carpenter, Ezekiel Russell, Rowland Crocker, Jonathan



Wilbraham—An old-fashioned house front

Ely, Caleb Stebbins, Rowland Crocker, Daniel Cadwell, Joseph Sikes, Philip Lyon, Benoni Atchinson, Ezra Barker and others whose names are now forgotten, but all of whom were once conspicuous figures in the events of early history in this interesting part of the county. The southern portion of the town was settled between 1741 and 1760, and in 1782 the locality was established as the south parish. In later years when parishes were no longer distinguishing features of history this locality

took the name of South Wilbraham and was so known until the division of the town and the incorporation of Hampden in 1878.

Having thus referred at length to the early settlement of the town at large, and having at the same time traced something of its civil history, the following statistics from the census reports will furnish an idea of the actual growth of the locality of which we write. In 1776, at the time of the colonial census, Wilbraham was found to contain 1,057 inhabitants. Subsequent changes in population may be noted as follows: 1790, 1,555; 1800, 1,743; 1810, 1,776; 1820, 1,979; 1830, 2,034; 1840, 1,864; 1850, 2,127; 1855, 2,032; 1860, 2,081; 1865, 2,111; 1870, 2,330; 1875, 2,576; 1880, 1,628; 1885, 1,724; 1890, 1,814; 1895, 1,740; 1900, 1,595.

Military History.—Settlement in the fourth parish of Springfield was begun during the period of the long continued French and English wars, but at a time when the powers were not engaged in actual contest, but were strengthening their armies in America pending the final struggle. When the strife was at its height the people of this precinct were attempting to secure a separation from the mother town, and the non-success which attended their efforts was probably in part due to the demands made upon Springfield for men and means necessary to defend the frontier of Hampshire county against the Indians who infested the region. In another chapter of this work the events of that period are recorded in detail and the part taken by Hampshire county soldiery is fully narrated. Among the inhabitants of the parish who entered and took part in the wars there may be mentioned the names of Capt. Samuel Day, Lieut. Thomas Merrick, Ensign Abel Bliss, John Langdon, Timothy Wright, Philip Lyon, William King, Jr., Paul Langdon, Daniel Cadwell, Isaac Colton, Aaron Bliss, Benjamin Warriner, Aaron Alvord, Samuel Warner, Benjamin Wright, Aaron Warriner, Stephen Bliss, Jesse Warner, Aaron Parsons, Benoni Atchinson, Thomas Dunham, Moses Bartlett, Samuel Warner, Sr., Paul Hitchcock, Samuel Warner, Jr., and Moses Warriner.

However, it was during the revolutionary war that the town first established a military record, although the martial spirit of its people antedated that period by many years. Indeed, among

the settlers here were many persons whose ancestors had taken part in the early Indian troubles, and some of whom served in the memorable King Philip's war. In the years immediately preceding the outbreak of the revolution this town had taken such action as was necessary for the common defence; the able-bodied young men were enrolled among the militia, and the company of minutemen was ready to march when the call was made. In July, 1774, settlers Daniel Cadwell, William King, Moses Stebbins, Eleazer Smith, John Stearns, John Bliss and Ezra Barker were appointed a committee to express by resolution the sentiment of the town in regard to the oppressions of the mother country, and in October following Nathaniel Warriner, Sergt. Daniel Cadwell, Lieut. William King, Maj. John Bliss and Eleazer Smith were appointed a committee of correspondence and inspection. Maj. Bliss represented the town in the famous Northampton convention, and also was chosen a delegate to the provincial congress held at Concord. The non-consumption pledge, by which the inhabitants declared their aversion to all British importations, was signed by 124 persons in this town alone, thus indicating a thoroughly loyal American spirit throughout the region. There were a few, however, who were inclined to favor the mother country, but the spirit of toryism was suppressed by the greater zeal of the patriotic Americans, and after Col. John Worthington withdrew from the public gaze there was little manifestation of disloyalty in Wilbraham. Moses Bliss, too, was well known as a British sympathizer during the early part of the war, and with such influence to sway them it was only natural that toryism should at first find a following in the town. (The Moses Bliss referred to just above was a lawyer of considerable prominence in Springfield.)

On the occasion of the "Lexington alarm," which really was the beginning of the revolution, Capt. James Warriner marched his company of minutemen to the vicinity of Boston and there served about ten days. This company was comprised as follows: Capt. James Warriner, Lieut. William King, Sergeants Enos Stebbins, Thomas King, Aaron Alvord, and Privates Eleazer Smith, Samuel Day, Joshua Chaffee, Samuel Merrick,

Asa Chaffee, Isaac Morris, Moses Colton, Chiliab Merrick, Jonathan Cooley, Isaac Dunham, Ezekiel Russell, Reuben Thayer, Benjamin Farnham, Comfort Chaffee, Jesse Warner, Jesse Carpenter, Joshua Jones, Rowland Crocker, Darius Chaffee, Ebenezer Cadwell, Joshua Eddy, Enos Clark, Ezekiel Wright, Calvin Stebbins, Thomas Coleman, Gideon Burt, Abel King, Charles Brewer, Benjamin Colton, John Stearns.

Capt. Paul Langdon's company was raised chiefly in Wilbraham and partially in other towns in this part of the county. The company roll follows: Paul Langdon, captain; Daniel Cadwell, first lieutenant; Noah Warriner, John Langdon, Philip Lyon, sergeants; Aaron Stebbins, Othneil Hitchcock, corporals; Charles Ferry, drummer; Abner Warriner, fifer; and privates, Daniel Carpenter, Aaron Cadwell, Jonathan Sikes (served at Quebec), Seth Clark, Abner Chapin, Nathan Sikes, Moses Simmons, Phanuel Warner (served at Quebec), John Langdon, 2d, Ichabod Parker, Cyprian Wright, Ezekiel Beebe, Lathrop Fuller, Solomon Cooley, John Johnson, Joseph Jennings (the last six from Ludlow), Daniel Sweetland (from Somers, Conn., served at Quebec), Daniel Simmons, Charles Cooley (Ludlow), Simon Stacey, John W. Chaffee, Ephraim Wright, Josiah Sweetland (from Somers, served at Quebec), John Davis, Reuben Shayler, Nathaniel Mighets, Ephraim Dunham, Joseph Dunham, William Clark (Belchertown), Edward Cotton (Ludlow), Moses Ellsworth (East Windsor), Ephraim Wright, Benjamin Chubb (died), Moses Rood, Eli Beebe, Simeon Bates.

The following is the pay roll of Capt. Daniel Cadwell's company of Col. Danielson's regiment, for service at Ticonderoga from December 5, 1776, to April 2, 1777 (180 miles travel, 7 pounds 7 shillings bounty, 99 days' service, wages 60 shillings per month): Daniel Cadwell, captain; Daniel Parsons, first lieutenant; Robert McMaster, second lieutenant; John Colton, John McElwain and Stephen Wright, sergeants; Medad Stebbins, Abner Warner, Aaron Colton and Joseph Colton, corporals; Judah Moore, drummer; William Colton, fifer; Joseph Abbott, Luther Bliss, Ebenezer Beebe, Steward Beebe, Zadock Beebe, Jesse Carpenter, Asa Chaffee, Amos Chaffee, John Hancock,

Jabez Hancock, John Hitchcock, Isaac Morris, Moses Stebbins, James Shaw, Samuel Warner, Daniel Chapin, Judah Chapin, Jesse Lamphere, John Stebbins, Perez Hitchcock, privates.

One of the most notable companies raised in the town was that commanded by Capt. James Shaw, attached to Col. Charles Pynchon's regiment, and served in Vermont and New York, at Bennington and in the vicinity of Saratoga, from September 24 to October 18, 1777. The personnel of the company was as follows: James Shaw, captain; Oliver King, Israel Chapin, Noah Stebbins and Ebenezer Colton, lieutenants; Joseph Sexton, Charles Ferry, Gad Lamb, Gaius Brewer, sergeants; Josiah Cooley, Aaron Chanwell, Abner Chapin, Medad Stebbins, corporals; Calvin Stebbins, fifer; Gordon Percival, Samuel F. Merrick, Edward Colton, Jonathan Leach, Jonathan Merrick, Luther Hitchcock, Benjamin Howard, Solomon Loomis, George Cooley, Nathaniel Warner, David Bliss, Asa Jones, Solomon Warriner, Phineas Hitchcock, Comfort Chaffee, Timothy Worthington, Daniel Sweetland, Solomon Lathrop, Jabez Cooley, David Wood, John Chaterton, Luther Cooley, Reuben Warriner, John Colton, Lemuel Whitney, Elijah Parsons, Judah Ely, John Langdon, Edward Morris, Jesse Lamphere, Aaron Stebbins, Judah Willey, Isaac Morris, David White, Matthew Keep, Asa Simonds, Aaron Howard, Zadock Stebbins, privates.

Among the other men of Wilbraham who rendered service in the field at some time during the period of the war there may be mentioned the names Levi Bannister (of Wilborougham), a fifer in Capt. Henry's company, Col. Brewer's regiment, and who afterward entered the continental army for three years; Daniel Colton, private in Capt. Colton's company; Luther King, fifer; and Paul Newton and Solomon King, privates in the same company. The Wilbraham contingent of men drafted for nine months' service at Kingston comprised Lewis Langdon, John Calkins, Moses Albert, John Russell, John Huntley, Joseph Cutt (a negro) and Zadock Benton. Samuel Calkins and Jonathan Polley were later additions to the Kingston troops.

The six months' men in the continental service in 1780 from Wilbraham were David Allen, Daniel Mason, John James Sikes,

Reuben Abbott, Ethan Smith, Seth Warner, Ebenezer Thomas, Gad Warriner, John White, Isaiah Chaffee, Titus Ammidown (Amadon), Henry Wright, John Orcutt, Joseph Bumstead, Zenas Cone, Gaius Stebbins, Stephen Simons, Kittridge Davis, Emmons Lillie. Jonas Banton, Nathaniel Hitchcock, Samuel Lyon, John Raymond, Asa Woodworth, Peleg Burdick, and Phineas Mason are credited to Wilbraham for the continental army.

The following men served under command of Capt. John Carpenter: Nathan Ainsworth, Jotham Carpenter, Chester Morris, John Amidon, Isaiah Chaffee, Philip Lyon, Josiah Langdon, Reuben Carpenter, James Richardson, Johnson Richardson. The following served in Capt. Abel King's company, Col. Ashley's regiment: Jesse Elwell, Eliphalet Hodges, Jabez Percival, Johnson Richardson, John White, Francis West. In Capt. Woodbridge's company we find the names of Caesar Merrick (negro), Gaius Stebbins and Oliver Sexton. In Capt. Joseph Browning's company were Asa Hill and John Thwing. In Capt. Reuben Munn's company were Daniel Bliss, sergeant; Zadock Stebbins, corporal; Joseph Bumsted, drummer; James Eddy, John Russell, Peleg Burdick, Aaron Hitchcock and Gamalial Dunham, privates. Israel Conant was a private in Capt. Cooper's company, Col. Bradford's regiment.

The following men of Wilbraham laid down their lives either on the field of battle or died from causes originating from the severities of a soldier's life: Benjamin Chubb, 1775; Solomon King, 1775; Nathaniel Miles, Phanuel Warner, George Merrick, Aaron Bliss, all of the army of Canada, 1776; Joseph Morris, Benjamin Russell, Ticonderoga, 1776; Josiah Wright, Joshua Leach, 1776; Malam Dunham, Roxbury 1776; Joseph Butler, 1776; Daniel Warriner, Albany, 1777; Capt. Daniel Cadwell, Sergt. Joseph Abbott, northern army, 1777; Samuel Lyon, 1778; Moses Simmons, White Plains, 1780; John Chaffee, Luther Ainsworth, near Little Falls, 1780; Isaac Skinner, killed by Indians, 1780. In all twenty men of this town were lost during the war, four being killed in battle and sixteen dying from exposure or disease.

Following closely upon the revolution with all its distressing events and hardships for the people of our town, there came what is known in history as Shays' rebellion, in which a few misguided Wilbraham men are said to have taken part with the insurgent forces. On the other side the town was better represented, and in Gen. Shepard's army were many loyal sons of the town. It is said that there were nine members of the Chaffee family who answered at the roll call of men who stood in defense of the law, the courts and the public welfare among Gen. Shepard's troops.

During the war of 1812-15 the excitement of the period was largely due to the division of sentiment among the inhabitants, and in this town the federal or peace party advocates were in the majority. This commonwealth generally did not furnish many troops for the service, yet in old Wilbraham we have the names of a few men who fought against the British in that contest. These men were Ralph Bennett, Stephen Cadwell, Joel M. Lyman, Eleazer Hitchcock, Robert Sessions, Phineas Burr and Solomon Jones.

Notwithstanding the long era of peace and plenty which followed the second war with Great Britain, the martial spirit of old Wilbraham had not entirely died away when Moultrie's guns proclaimed civil war in the United States. It was then that the loyal sons of the town revived the warlike spirit which long had laid dormant, and as its result it is found that Wilbraham sent into the service almost 200 men who served with the land forces, while more than 30 others are credited to the town in the naval service. In 1860 the town contained 2,081 inhabitants, from which we see that fully ten per cent of the entire population entered the army. All of them, however, did not return, and to-day some of them are still sleeping on southern battlefields; and the memory of their brave deeds is kept alive by the beautiful monument which adorns the little village of Wilbraham in the central part of the town.

Educational.—The inhabitants of Wilbraham have long been known as a progressive people, and even from the days of early settlement have given especial attention to the educational

welfare of their youth. Indeed, one of the principal reasons why the people of the Fourth precinct of Springfield sought a separation from the mother town was that the spiritual and educational interests of the people might have better attention. In 1737 the voters of Springfield allowed the sum of 3 pounds for support of a school in this parish, and in 1740 the amount was increased to 6 pounds. Soon after 1750 a school house was built in what now is the village, and in 1775 the territory of the town comprised ten school districts. Ezra Barker, the old town clerk, is remembered as one of the early schoolmasters, while other instructors of the youth after methods of their day were Moses Enos, Gorham Stebbins, Anson L. Brewer, Ralph Glover, Elder Bennett, Mary Newell, Laura Bennett, and others.

The growth of school interests has ever been in keeping with the advances in other directions, and at the present time Wilbraham is as well provided in this respect as any town in the the county. According to the present disposition of school interests the town comprises eleven districts, has eleven public schools and eleven teachers are employed annually. There are in the town about 275 children of school age, and the town raises by tax annually for school purposes about $3,900, added to which is the local share of the state school money, amounting to about $460. The total expense of the schools for each year is about $4,925. The present school committee comprises Jason Butler, chairman; H. G. Webber and Ethelbert Bliss; superintendents, Mary L. Poland, Mary L. Williams and Sidney Greenwood.

Wesleyan Academy.—The institution which above all others has been a factor for good in the history of the town for the last three-quarters of a century is the Wesleyan academy, a school of high character and wide repute, and directly connected with the New England conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. The history of this famous institution frequently has been written and widely published, and only recently was made the subject of a comprehensive volume of several hundred pages. In regard to the history of the academy the annual catalogue for 1900-1901 says:

"The Wesleyan Academy was opened on September 1, 1817, at Newmarket, N. H. An act of incorporation was obtained

from the Massachusetts legislature in 1824, and the academy removed to Wilbraham. At its opening here, November 8, 1825, there were eight students present the first day, thirty-five during the term.

"While first founded by a group of Methodist preachers, and always noted for its strong religious character, it has granted no sectarian privileges, but has always been open to all earnest young men and young women. On its removal to Wilbraham leading citizens of both local churches liberally subscribed for its endowment, and it numbers among its distinguished alumni and friends devout believers of varied forms of Christian faith."

Old Academy, Fisk and Binney Halls

"Over 17,000 different persons have been students within its walls. Some 900 have prepared for college, and as many more have gone directly to teaching, or to professional studies. At least one-third of its students have been young women.

"By some very generous donations it has recovered from several severe losses, and acquired a property amounting to $290,000. Among its many benefactors have been Amos Binney of Boston and William Rice of Springfield, early and enthusiastic advocates of learning in New England Methodism; Isaac Rich and Jacob Sleeper of Boston, afterward founders of Boston Uni-

versity; and Horace Smith of Springfield, manufacturer and philanthropist. Gifts amounting to more than $25,000 were received in the year that ended June, 1900."

The act incorporating the "trustees of Wesleyan Academy" was passed February 7, 1824, and Amos Binney, Abel Bliss, Abraham Avery, Calvin Brewer, Enoch Mudge, Wilbur Fisk, John Lindsey, Joshua Crowell and William Rice comprised the body corporate of the institution. On land donated by William Rice, with a fund collected by agents who travelled through the

Rich Hall and Principal's Residence

conference for that purpose, the old academy building was erected. A farm of 60 acres—one-half of the old Warriner homestead—was purchased and the old farm house was remodeled for a boarding house. The principal's house was built in 1827; a separate boarding-house for young women was built in 1838; Fisk Hall was built in 1851, and Binney Hall in 1854. The new principal's residence was erected in 1856. Rich Hall was built in 1860-61, and the Smith Memorial gymnasium, the most recent acquisition to the building group, was erected in 1896 at a cost of $45,000.

The Warriner Homestead, Wilbraham

Built 1793

The academy property and all its various structures are admirably situated and give to the pleasant little hamlet of Wilbraham the appearance of a typical New England college town. For three-quarters of a century the institution has been the chief factor in local history and has been productive of much good in general educational circles.

During the period of its history the presidents of the academy corporation, in succession, have been as follows: Col. Amos Binney, Rev. John W. Hardy, Abel Bliss, George M. Hyde, William Rice, Rev. Phineas Crandell, Rev. Amos Binney, Rev. Edward Otheman, A. M., Amos B. Merrill, Rev. Erastus O. Haven, D. D., Rev. Edward Otheman, A. M., Horace Smith, Rev. Edward Otheman, A. M., Amos B. Merrill, Edward F. Porter, Rev. Edward Otheman, A. M., Edward F. Porter, Thomas P. Richardson, William Rice, D. D., Rev. Charles F. Rice, D. D.

The principals have been as follows: Rev. Wilbur Fisk, D. D., 1825-31; W. McK. Bangs, A. M., 1831-32; John Foster, A. M., 1832-34; David Potter, D. D., 1834-41; Charles Adams, D. D., 1841-45; Robert Allyn, D. D., 1845-48; Miner Raymond, D. D., 1848-64; Edward Cook, D. D., 1864-74; Nathaniel Fellows, A. M., 1874-79; George M. Steele, D. D., 1879-92; William Rice Newhall, D. D., 1892-1901, the present principal.

Churches.—The early history of the established church and that of the town were so closely interwoven that each was a part of the other. Indeed, the old Fourth parish—the original name of Wilbraham—was set off that the inhabitants of this mountainous region might have the benefits of religious worship without the necessity of traveling ten long miles to the mother church at Springfield; and as early as 1739 the settlers here were granted the privilege of preaching services a portion of each year. This was the real foundation of the Congregational church in this town. When the parish was established in 1741, Rev. Noah Merrick was employed as the leader of the spiritual body of this settlement, but the question of location of the meeting house appears to have given rise to much discussion, and not until 1747 was the site harmoniously settled. In the same year the

structure was built in the locality known as Wigwam hill, but in 1782, upon the creation of the South parish, substantially comprising what now is Hampden, the building was removed to a more central point in the North parish, or what afterward became the village of Wilbraham. It was occupied for many years, and at length, during the early years of the last century, was replaced with another larger and more suitable edifice. The latter was burned in June, 1877, upon which the present comfortable house of worship was built.

Although the history of the mother church in Wilbraham, especially during the first fifty years of its existence, was accompanied with many viscissitudes, it never lost its identity or organization. It was supported at the general expense of the town for many years, and when persons of other denominations declined to pay the tax assessed to maintain the mother society, troubles followed, and for a time the very life of the old institution was threatened. The difficulties at length were adjusted and the society was reorganized on a more equitable basis. The pastors, in succession, of the old church have been Rev. Noah Merrick, called and settled in 1741, and died 1776; Joshua Willard, 1787-93; Ezra Witter, 1797-1814; Ebenezer Brown, 1818-27; John Hyde, 1828-31; Israel G. Rose, 1832-35; John Bowers, 1837-56; John P. Skeele, 1858-64; Alexander D. Stowell, 1865-67; and Rev. Martin S. Howard, whose pastoral service in Wilbraham was begun October 29, 1868.

Methodism began to develop in the South parish of Wilbraham as early as 1790, and very soon extended to and found root in the North parish through the missionary labors of Methodist preachers on the Hartford circuit who visited this region, Lemuel Smith being the first of this denomination to preach in the North precinct. Soon afterward a class was formed and included Abel and Silas Bliss, Charles Brewer and the wife of Solomon Warriner. In 1793 a meeting house was begun, but the work of construction was not finally completed until 1814. The corporation and society of the church was formally organized in August, 1832, and in 1835 a new and more commodious house of worship was erected and dedicated.

For three-quarters of a century this church in Wilbraham has enjoyed a continuous and healthful growth, and in connection with Wesleyan academy it is looked upon as one of the influential denominational institutions of the town. In 1870 the society erected the new stone memorial edifice, at a cost of more than $30,000. In point of membership the church is one of the strongest in eastern Hampden county, and under the pastoral care of Rev. Dr. W. H. Thomas it ranks with the most influential ecclesiastical bodies of the region.

In the eastern part of the town, in the locality generally known as East Wilbraham, or Glendale, a M. E. chapel was built soon after 1870.

Grace Union Church is an institution of North Wilbraham, and although the edifice was built with the contributions of members of various denominations, and is entitled to be occupied by each of them, the church is usually called Congregational. Rev. Vernon H. Deming has charge of the services here.

A Roman Catholic mission was established in North Wilbraham in 1891. It is known as "St. Cecilia's" and is attended from Palmer.

A Baptist society was formed in the north part of the town as early as 1765, and for about three-quarters of a century afterward was one of the recognized institutions of the locality. The society was followed by more formal church organization in 1768, and in 1770 Rev. Seth Clark became pastor of the little flock. In 1779 a house of worship was built; in 1800 the membership exceeded 200 persons, yet within the next twenty years the society itself passed out of existence. In 1833 the meeting house was destroyed by fire.

Villages and Hamlets.—In this town several localities have distinguishing names, and each in a way has its own institutions, yet there are but two recognized villages having commercial standing and post-office accommodations. These are Wilbraham and North Wilbraham, about two miles apart and connected by one of the most delightful highways that any town in Hampden county can boast.

Wilbraham, formerly known as the Centre, the locality where settled the pioneers of the town, dates back in its history

more than a century and a half, and notwithstanding the fact that there is located one of the most famous educational institutions of the county, the permanent population of the village proper has not at any time exceeded 450 persons. As a trading center Wilbraham owes its continued prosperity to the presence of Wesleyan academy, otherwise North Wilbraham, on the railroad line, must have outstripped the older village. For many years at least one good store has been kept at Wilbraham, and

The Old Tavern—North Wilbraham

among the old merchants there may be recalled the names of Roderick Burt, Robert R. Wright and George W. Ely. The present merchants are George W. Ely, Frank A. Gurney and Charles N. Mowry. A post-office was established here in 1821, and William Knight was the first postmaster. The present incumbent of the office is Frank A. Gurney.

North Wilbraham is a post-office and way station on the line of the Boston & Albany railroad, yet its commercial importance must be shared with the station named Collins, on the line of

the Athol branch road. Indeed, the entire north settlement might appropriately be called Collins, in allusion to and honor of Warren Collins and others of that family name who have been such prominent figures in the history of the town for the last half century. The Collins store, which burned in the fall of 1900, was one of the most extensive country stores in the county.

At one time this part of the town was called "Sodom," but along about 1846 or '47, when a post-office was established here, North Wilbraham became the accepted designation, and at the same time Warren Collins became postmaster, holding the office until 1878. The present incumbent of the office is John W. Baldwin. The merchants here are Frank A. Fuller, general dealer, and James Egan, druggist.

As a manufacturing town Wilbraham enjoyed little prominence previous to 1865, although a grist mill and a number of saw mills were in operation long before that time. There also were the old carding and fulling mills which produced cloth for domestic purposes chiefly, and also a tannery, the latter owned and run by Thomas and Henry Howard. Abraham Avery once had a small tanning establishment in the town. Among the other old industries of this north part of the town we may mention the Ellis Mills at Butlerville, a mile east of North Wilbraham, and on the site where Benjamin Butler many years ago operated a saw mill for Dr. Marcus Shearer; hence the name Butlerville, once well known in town annals. The Ellis Mills were kept in operation about 1868, and Dwight W. and Stillman Ellis were the chief promoters of the enterprise, being extensive manufacturers of cassimeres. The name of Gates & Nelson, a substantial firm years ago, also is to be mentioned in the same connection.

The Collins Manufacturing company for many years has been a leading concern in North Wilbraham history. It was incorporated in 1872 as the Collins Paper company, with $200,000 capital, a large share of which once was furnished from Amherst college funds. In 1876 the name was changed to Collins Manufacturing company, as since known, and the capital was increased to $300,000. The company, with frequent

changes in stock ownership and business control, has since been in active operation, and its works comprise the principal industrial enterprise of Eastern Hampden county. The plant now forms a part of the Whiting system of paper interests.

The Cutler Mills, with a ten-carload daily capacity of ground feed and grain, comprise another valuable manufacturing enterprise of North Wilbrahm. The plant began operations in the early part of 1877, and has continued uninterruptedly to the present time.

Nine-Mile Pond—North Wilbraham

This brief retrospect will give the reader an idea of the past history of one of the best outlying towns of Hampden county, for Wilbraham long has been regarded as one of the most substantial civil divisions of the county. It has produced and sent into public life some of the best sons of pioneer stock, and from its rugged hills there have come some of the strongest men who have been chosen to public office in Hampden history. A glance

at the earlier pages of this chapter will disclose the names of those who have represented the town in various official capacities, both at home and in the legislature, and in another chapter there may be found a list of those who have been sent to the representative halls of the state since the creation of Hampden county. But, regardless of political prominence, there are many names in Wilbraham history that are worthy of passing mention in these pages. We refer to such men as Abel Bliss, who once was a candidate for the lieutenant-governorship on the old-time abolition ticket; Deacon and Capt. Moses Burt, a worthy man in town and church affairs, and whose military title came from his connection with the "floodwood" militia of years ago; John M. Merrick, a farmer, man of substance, justice of the peace, and an influential citizen; Samuel Merrick, representative of an old substantial family and himself a successful farmer; Roderick S. Merrick ,prominent in the church and a strong representative in the legislature; Roderick Burt, son of Moses Burt, a farmer and for years in business with Robert R. Wright; Robert R. Wright, son of Robert, an early settler, and for nearly forty years a merchant in the town (Robert R. Wright, Jr., went West in 1872 and now is mayor of the city of Denver, Col.); Dr. Luther Brewer, physician, and a strong man in the legislature; Dr. Gideon Kibbe and Dr. Jesse W. Rice, both of whom were prominent figures in town history in their time; Deacon Horace Clark, a good, substantial farmer, and whose sons are among the best men of the town to-day; Joel M. Lyman, farmer; William Brewer, who raised a large family, and brother of Dr. Brewer, previously mentioned; Timothy Brewer, farmer; John Brewer; John Bliss, once a prominent figure in town affairs; Solomon Wright, son of Solomon, who came to the town about the time of the revolution and who died in 1843; John Baldwin, a conspicuous personage in the north part of the town for many years; Warren Collins, the first station agent at North Wilbraham; W. Levi Collins, the merchant and prominent business man, who died in February, 1901; and still others whose names are equally worthy of mention could our list be extended indefinitely.

However, in closing our chapter, let us note some of the chief figures in Wilbraham's history of the present day. First, there are three excellent selectmen, upon whom devolves the additional duties of overseers of the poor and who also constitute the board of health. They are Jason Butler, Henry Clark and Fred W. Green. The other town officers are Frank A. Fuller, town clerk and treasurer; Frank A. Gurney, auditor; Walter M. Green, collector; Lee W. Rice, Clarence P. Bolles, George L. Rindge, assessors; Fred W. Green, superintendent of streets; H. W. Cutler, Frank A. Gurney, Minnie M. Morgan, trustees Wilbraham Public library; Minnie M. Morgan, librarian; Francis E. Clark, Henry M. Bliss, Jason Butler, Henry I. Edson and Chauncey E. Peck, justices of the peace.

The more prominent business men of the town are the merchants, George W. Ely, Frank A. Fuller, Frank A. Gurney and Charles N. Mowry, all general stores; James Egan, druggist; John W. Baldwin, Erastus B. Gates and Wm. H. McGuire, coal dealers; Drs. Arthur L. Damon, James M. Foster and Horace G. Webber, physicians and surgeons; Fred W. Green, proprietor of stage line; Anson Soule, saw miller. To the forgoing list there may be added the names of Jesse L. Rice, Henry H. Burbank, Henry Bliss, Ethelbert Bliss (the extensive peach grower), Ira G. Potter (large land owner and one of the town's most representative men), Charles C. Beebe, Rev. M. S. Howard (for more than 30 years pastor of the Congregational church), Rev. Dr. W. H. Thomas (pastor of the Memorial M. E. church), Chauncey E. Peck (the wheelwright and one of the best informed men of the town), Myron Brewer (son of the late Dr. Luther Brewer), W. E. Reddington (superintendent of the paper mill at North Wilbraham), H. W. Cutler, J. M. Perry, John and Joseph Baldwin and many others whose names are not mentioned, but all of whom are the active factors in Wilbraham history.

CHAPTER IV

THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK

On the south border of Hampden county, in the second tier of towns west of the Connecticut, is situated one of the most irregularly outlined civil divisions of the region, about one-sixth of its entire territory being bounded on three sides by Connecticut land. In the early history of these two New England commonwealths, it appears that no satisfactory boundary line could be agreed upon in this locality, and as late as 1800 the difference was still unsettled; and when finally adjusted it seems somewhat strange that the line dividing the states could not have been made a right line. However, that which was Connecticut's loss was Hampshire county's gain, for about six square miles of Southwick lands lay south of the general state line. Originally this disputed area extended to the east line of Southwick, but when a compromise was effected each state took half of the tract, and this action was satisfactory to the inhabitants.

Settlement.—Originally this region was part of the mother town of Westfield, and its early settlement was accomplished during the two-score years following 1730. Tradition says that Samuel Fowler was the pioneer, and that in 1734 he settled in the northern part of the town, in a locality commonly designated "Poverty," because the land there was supposed to be barren and unfit for cultivation. But that happened nearly two centuries ago, and subsequent events have shown the lands here generally are as fertile as elsewhere in the county outside the river valleys; and it is evident that Samuel Fowler prospered in the locality, for a long line of thrifty descendants have come from the old pioneer, and among them have been some of the best men of Southwick in later years.

Old records and documents disclose the fact that settlement in this part of Westfield was accomplished rapidly after the lands were opened for sale, and in the next few years after the coming of the pioneer we find these settlers on the land: Silas and Abner and David Fowler, Gideon Stiles, Noah Loomis, Ephraim Griffin, Matthew Laflin, Israel Perkins, William Moore, John Kent, George Granger, David Nelson, James Smith, Joseph Moore, John Campbell, John Berry, Moses Root, Phineas Southwell, Eph. Chamberlain, Stephen Sexton, Phineas Perkins, Thomas Hough, Isaac Coit, David Ives, Brigham Brown, Shubal Stiles, Doras Stiles, Sampson French, Joseph and Abner Forward, Holcomb Granger, John Rockwell, Enos Foot, Solomon Stevens and Job Langdon. Many of the grandchildren of these first settlers have aged and died, yet glancing over the lists of the townsmen we discover that many of the old surnames are still known here, and some of them are represented by men of influence and worth. To mention them all according to their merit and prominence would require a volume, hence we must be content with the reproduction of the names of pioneers and early settlers, and in later pages the names of their descendants will appear as they have been identified with the history of the town.

In 1770 Southwick was granted a district organization and in 1775 was given full town powers. The early officers evidently believed in keeping a complete list of the male inhabitants (in which respect it was an exceptional town, for only in two others have similar lists been discovered) and in 1781, according to records found in the clerk's office, the male inhabitants, subject to military duty and "poll rates" were as follows: David Hastings, Thomas Hanchet, David Nelson, Amos Noble, Gideon Stiles, Benj. Rising, jun., George Sexton, Stephen Sexton, Solomon Munsell, William Campbell, Samuel and Amos Johnson, Moses and Israel Hays (Hayes), James Campbell, Daniel Wait, John Woodbury, John Pierce, John Pierce, jun., Moses Noble, Matthew Laflin, Joseph Moore, Israel Perkins, Phineas Perkins, Benj. Loomis, jun., Enos Loomis, Elijah Hough, James Smith, William Moore, John Bishop, Moses Mitchell, Jonathan

Wilcox, Eldad Graves, Samuel Johnson, jun., Benj. Rising, Silas, Abner and David Fowler, Stephen Russell, Titus Bigelow, Phineas Southwell, Benj. Loomis, Nehemiah and Israel Loomis, Abraham Page, Abraham Page, jun., Hezekiah Jones, Joseph Barber, Roger and Gideon Root, Jonathan Tillotson, Josiah, Ezra and John Kent, Gad Allen, Elijah Blackman, Martin Holcomb, William Mather, Zur. Root, William Miller, Joshua Bottom, Samuel Haynes, John Wilcox, Trustum Story, John Story, Jacob Cook, Isaac Fowler, Abner Rising, Joseph Hyde, jun., Pliny Sacket, Noah Loomis, Noah Loomis, jun., Shem Loomis, Moses Olds, Samuel Olds, Moses Allen, Moses Root, Samuel Kellogg, Jesse Sacket, Jared Bush, Josiah Kellogg, Amasa and David Ives, Thomas Hough, John Berry, Thomas and John Campbell, Amos Rising, Solomon Stephens, Nathaniel Gilbert, Silas Stephens, Freegrace Norton, Isaac Gilbert, Daniel Lee, Eldad Norton, George Granger, George Granger, jun., Levi and Eldred Palmer, Gad Dewey, Simon Wetherbee, Sampson French, Philip Hayes and Daniel Griffin.

Many of these residents of Southwick in 1781 were not life-long citizens of the town, and while a large proportion of the surnames mentioned are not now known in local annals, a number of the present generation of inhabitants can trace their ancestry to one or more of those whose names are recorded above.

Organization.—Having within the brief space of about thirty years acquired necessary number of families and inhabitants, including among them some of the strongest men of the mother town, it was only natural that this people should petition the general court for a separation from Westfield, for they were indeed remotely located from the seat of town government and were entitled to the consideration asked. The act conferred district powers on the new jurisdiction and authorized the election of all local officers except a separate representative to the general court. The provisions of the act were carried out and a full board of district officers was elected annually from 1770 (the act was passed November 7) to 1775, but, unfortunately, the records during the period of the district character are not to be found, and it is possible that they were so imperfectly kept as

to be of little value, hence many facts of historic interest are thereby denied us.

On August 23, 1775, Southwick was made a town by general act, and thereupon took its place among the civil divisions of Hampshire county. From this time the records are faithfully kept and well preserved considering their age and service. From 1775 to 1901 the offices of selectman and town clerk have been filled as follows:

Selectmen.—1775, Gideon Stiles, Noah Loomis, Silas Fowler; 1776, Gideon Stiles, Silas Fowler, Abner Fowler, Noah Loomis, Matthew Laflin; 1777, Noah Loomis, Gideon Stiles, Abner Fowler, Ephraim Griffin, Israel Perkins; 1778, Noah Loomis, Gideon Stiles, Matthew Laflin, John Kent, Abner Fowler; 1779-80, William Moore, David Nelson, George Granger; 1781, Abner Fowler, James Smith, John Campbell; 1782, Silas Fowler, John Kent, Matthew Laflin, Noah Loomis, Thomas Campbell; 1783, Matthew Laflin, Joseph Moore, John Kent; 1784, John Kent, John Barry, James Smith; 1785, Silas Fowler, Matthew Laflin, Moses Root, John Kent, Thomas Campbell; 1786, James Smith, Thomas Campbell, Phineas Southwell, Stephen Sexton, Ephraim Chamberlain; 1787, Phineas Perkins, Noah Loomis, Thomas Hough, Brigham Brown, Joseph Moore; 1788, Phineas Southwell, George Granger, Silas Fowler, Isaac Coit, Phineas Perkins; 1789, Thomas Campbell, Isaac Coit, Phineas Southwell, Ephraim Chamberlain, David Ives; 1790, Ephraim Chamberlain, Thomas Campbell, Samuel Fowler; 1791, Thomas Campbell, Samuel Fowler, Shubael Stiles; 1792, Sampson French, Samuel Fowler, Shubael Stiles, Phineas Southwell, Phineas Perkins; 1793, Samuel Fowler, Shubael Stiles, Samuel French; 1794, Doras Stiles, Samuel Fowler, David Fowler; 1795, Thomas Campbell, Samuel Fowler, David Fowler; 1796, Samuel Fowler, Doras Stiles, Thomas Campbell, Holcomb Granger, Joseph Forward; 1797, Thomas Campbell, Joseph Forward, Samuel Fowler; 1798, Joseph Forward, Job Langdon, Solomon Stephens; 1799-1800, Job Langdon, Samuel Fowler, Joseph Forward; 1801, Shubael Stiles, Enos Root, Joseph Forward; 1802, Samuel Fowler, Doras Stiles, Brigham Brown; 1803, David Fowler, Oliver

Utley, Ham Loomis; 1804, Matthew Laflin, Reuben Moore, Moses Hayes; 1805, Shubael Stiles, Reuben Moore, Thomas Campbell; 1806, Shubael Stiles, Roger Moore, Joseph Forward; 1807, Shubael Stiles, Joseph Forward, Oliver Utley; 1808-9, Shubael Stiles, Jos. Forward, Samuel Fowler; 1810, Samuel Fowler, Richard Dickinson, Oliver Moore; 1811, Shubael Stiles, Oliver Smith, Reuben Moore; 1812, Reuben Moore, Solomon Smith, Samuel Fowler; 1813, Doras Stiles, Samuel Fowler, Elijah Holcomb; 1814, Joseph Forward, Elijah Holcomb, Ephraim Booth; 1815, Richard Dickinson, Reuben Moore, Gideon Stiles; 1816, Richard Dickinson, Gideon Stiles, Amasa Holcomb; 1817-18, Gideon Stiles, Amasa Holcomb, Heman Laflin; 1819, Amasa Holcomb, William Hosmer, Job Langdon; 1820, Gideon Stiles, Heman Laflin, Almon Gillett; 1821, Gideon Stiles, John Mills, Almon Gillett; 1822, Gideon Stiles, Almon Gillett, Joseph M. Forward; 1823, John Mills, Joseph M. Forward, Eli L. Moore; 1824, Jos. M. Forward, Eli L. Moore, Abraham Rising, jun.; 1825, Eli L. Moore, Abraham Rising, jun., Warren Byington; 1826, Warren Byington, Gideon Stiles, Thaddeus Foot; 1827, Abraham Rising, jun., Zebina Mason, Almon Gillett; 1828, Abraham Rising, jun., Zebina Mason, Jubal Byington; 1829, Uzal Rockwell, Gideon Root, Elisha Steer, jun.; 1830, Robert Forward, Warren Byington, Abraham Rising, jun.; 1831-32, John Mills, Robert Forward, Elisha Steer, jun.; 1833, Joseph M. Forward, Uzal Rockwell, Elisha Steer; 1834, Elisha Steer, Gideon Stiles, Robert Forward; 1835, Robert Forward, Gideon Stiles, Samuel S. Fowler; 1836, Gideon Stiles, Solomon Green, Elisha Steer; 1837, Joseph M. Forward, Sardis Gillett, Samuel S. Fowler; 1838, Sardis Gillett, Almon H. Baker, Samuel S. Fowler; 1839, Almon H. Baker, Abraham Rising, jun., Elisha Booth; 1840, Abraham Rising, jun., Elisha Booth, Josiah S. Knowles; 1841, Elisha Booth, Josiah S. Knowles, Carmi Shurtleff; 1842-43, Gideon Stiles, Abraham Rising, Carmi Shurtleff; 1844, Abraham Rising, Eli L. Moore, Chandler Holcomb; 1845, Chandler Holcomb, Samuel Webb, Tarsus N. Fowler; 1846, Samuel Webb, Heaton Granger, P. W. Stevens; 1847, P. W. Stevens, Daniel W. King, Moses White; 1848, Moses White, P.

W .Stevens ,Calvin Cannon; 1849, Oliver Root, Joseph M. Forward, Calvin Cannon; 1850, Oliver Root, P. W. Stevens, Samuel Kellogg; 1851, Theron Rockwell, Easton T. Rising, P. W. Stevens; 1852, Theron Rockwell, Elisha Steer, Oliver Root; 1853, Oliver Root, B. B. Loomis, Theron Warner; 1854, Theron Warner, B. B. Loomis, William R. Brown; 1855, Joseph W. Rockwell, A. J. Marvin, Uzal Rockwell; 1856, Thomas Cooley, Uzal Rockwell, A. J. Marvin; 1857, Theron Rockwell, Tarsus N. Fowler, H. H. Hosmer; 1858, Carmi Shurtleff, Alvin Rising, C. K. Lambson; 1859, Carmi Shurtleff, C. K. Lambson, Gideon A. Stiles; 1860, Gideon A. Stiles, M. M. Steer, William Strain; 1861, Carmi Shurtleff, Abraham Rising, Luther Fowler; 1862-63, A. J. Marvin, A. F. Webb, A. P. Easton; 1864, A. P. Easton, E. C. Vining, Moses White; 1865-66, A. P. Easton, N. S. Noble, A. J. Forward; 1867, M. A. Moore, N. S. Noble, A. J. Forward; 1868, M. A. Moore, Calvin Cannon, Raner Rising; 1869, M. A. Moore, Calvin Cannon, Lucien Bacon; 1870, M. A. Moore, O. A. Granger, Marcus Phelps; 1871, O. A. Granger, A. P. Easton, Andrew White; 1872-73, O. A. Granger, E. A. Steer, W. D. Arnold; 1874, W. D. Arnold, J. L. Black; W. W. Easton; 1875-78, A. J. Forward, J. L. Black, Edwin Gilbert; 1879, A. J. Forward, Dwight H. Hollister, Charles J. Gillett; 1880, Dwight H. Hollister, John Mason, Calvin S. Miller; 1881, Dwight H. Hollister, Calvin S. Miller, Andrew White; 1882, Calvin S. Miller, Andrew White, John Mason; 1883, John Mason, Calvin S. Miller, Homer Noble; 1884, Homer Noble, Dwight H. Hollister, Llewellyn S. Wetherbee; 1885, Dwight H. Hollister, Llewellyn S. Wetherbee, William F. Fletcher; 1886, Wm. F. Fletcher, L. S. Wetherbee, Calvin S. Miller; 1887, L. S. Wetherbee, D. H. Hollister, Chas. J. Root; 1888, L. S. Wetherbee, D. H. Hollister, Chas. W. Noble; 1889, D. H. Hollister, Chas. W. Noble, F. M. Arnold; 1890, Chas. W. Noble, F. M. Arnold, L. S. Wetherbee; 1891, F. M. Arnold, L. S. Wetherbee, John Mason; 1892, L. S. Wetherbee, John Mason, Homer Noble; 1893, D. H. Hollister, L. S. Wetherbee, Chas. W. Noble; 1894-95, John Mason, George Doherty, Charles H. Saunders; 1896-98, Chas. W. Noble, George Doherty, Emerson C. Dibble; 1899-1900,

George Doherty, Charles W. Noble, Birney G. Holcomb; 1901, Birney G. Holcomb, Charles Phelps, George Doherty.

Town Clerks.—Abner Fowler, 1775-78; William Moore, 1779-80; Isaac Coit, 1781-87; Thomas Hough, 1788; Samuel Fowler, 1789-1801; Enos Foot, 1802; Samuel Fowler, 1803; Enos Foot, 1804-10; Job Langdon, 1811-12; Joseph M. Forward, 1813-17; John Mills, 1818; Ephraim Booth, 1819-22; Levi W. Humphrey, 1823; Robert Forward, 1824; Levi W. Humphrey, 1825-28; Edwin Foot, 1829; Joseph M. Forward, 1830-31; Harrison Foot, 1832-33; Phineas W. Stevens, 1834-36; James Stevens, 1837-44; Carmi Shurtleff, 1845; Joseph M. Forward, 1846-51; A. J. Forward, 1852-54; Joseph E. White, 1855; P. W. Stevens, 1856; Joseph E. White, 1857; Seymour L. Granger, 1858-60; C. J. Root, 1861-65; Luther Fowler, 1866-67; B. G. Palmer, 1868; Orrin A. Granger, 1869-70; William W. Phelps, 1871; H. E. Webb, 1872-74; Edwin Shurtleff, 1875-76; William Strain, 1877; William F. Fletcher, 1878-81; Charles A. Reed, 1882-83; Edward Gillett, 1884; Frank A. Osborne, 1885-88; George Brace, 1889-97; J. Spencer White, 1898-1900; Dr. F. Knight Porter, 1901.

Town Officers, 1901.—Birney G. Holcomb, Charles Phelps, George Doherty, selectmen, assessors, overseers of the poor and board of health; Dr. F. Knight Porter, town clerk; Dwight H. Hollister, William W. Phelps, auditors; Llewellyn S. Wetherbee, treasurer and collector; Lathrop Welcome, highway commissioner; William F. Fletcher, Amasa Holcomb, Calvin S. Miller, cemetery commissioners; William L. Babb, chief of police; Monroe G. Spring, Solomon C. Warren, James E. Ames, school committee; J. Ellis Ames, principal of high school; John R. Boyle, Amasa Holcomb, George Phelps, trustees of free public library; H. B. Harding, librarian; Dr. F. Knight Porter, justice of the peace.

From first to last Southwick has furnished to the county an interesting and valuable historical record. It was settled during the prevalence of the French and Indian wars, was brought into incomplete existence just before the outbreak of the revolution and was made full in its organization in the year

in which that struggle was begun. One of the first acts after the election of town officers was a vote to raise a company of twenty-five minutemen, and Jonathan Hare was sent as delegate to the provincial congress. The committee of safety appointed in January, 1776, comprised Noah Loomis, Silas Fowler, William Moore, John Kent, Deacon Morton, Solomon Stephens and Ephraim Griffin. In this year the town declared in favor of independence, and offered a bounty of 30 shillings each for nine men to enlist in the expedition against Canada. Later on the bounty was increased to fifteen pounds and eventually to thirty pounds to keep the quota full when enlistments were hard to secure.

Glancing over the records of revolutionary services we find that Southwick answered the call to arms upon the first news of the Lexington alarm, with its company of minutemen, whose names, so far as can now be ascertained, were Silas Fowler, George Granger, John Kent, Jesse Dunham, Elijah Hough, Jonathan Hayes, John Campbell, Roger Root, Zenas Graves, Samuel Olds, Israel Loomis, Stephen Russell, Moses Campbell, Thomas Campbell, Ezekiel Graves, Levi Bradley, John Stevenson (probably Stevens), Israel Hayes, Amos Loomis, Noah Loomis, Silas Stephens, Elijah Harmon, William Campbell, James Nelson, Amos Ives. These men served some eight and others sixteen days under the first call, and all were privates.

Nearly all of these patriot forefathers were at once enrolled as members of a better organized company and on the 21st of April, 1775, set out for Roxbury, where they arrived April 29, and were assigned to the regiment under Col. Danielson, with Lieut.-Col. Shepard, of Westfield, second in command. The personnel of this company was as follows:

Captain, Silas Fowler; lieutenant, George Granger; ensign, John Kent; sergeants, Levi Dunham, Elijah Hough, Jonathan Hayes; corporals, John Campbell, Amos Ives, William Campbell; fifer, Zenas Graves; privates, Israel Loomis, John Stephenson, Noah Loomis, Israel Hayes, Silas Stephens, Elijah Harmon, Ezekiel Graves, Moses Campbell, Amos Loomis, Roger Root, Thomas Campbell, Samuel Olds, Levi Bradley, James Nelson,

Stephen Russell. Of these men 14 were in service 21 days, and 11 were in service 11 days, under the first call. Later on many re-enlisted and served at various periods of the war and others entered the continental army and gave efficient services during the dark period of the war. It is unfortunate that the rolls of revolutionary soldiers are not complete, for it is known that the men of Southwick acquitted themselves with honor on many battlefields, and the names of all of them are worthy of especial mention in the pages of history.

In 1780 the town voted not to have Capt. Fowler make a draft of soldiers for the continental army, and at the same time a committee was chosen to enquire into the action of the general court, the belief being that the legislative body had not the authority to enforce the draft. Soon afterward, however, the town voted to pay a bounty of $1,000 (continental bills) to each of three men who should enter the army; and in 1781 Southwick had nine soldiers in the regular army, having offered $1,000 bounty for enlistments and 20 shillings per month pay. These extreme measures completely drained the treasury and also involved the town in a heavy debt, which the next generation was called upon to pay. With this legacy of indebtedness upon them it is not to be wondered at that Daniel Shays had a sympathetic following in Southwick, although the records make no disclosures as to what persons actually joined the insurgent host.

In Southwick during the war of 1812-15 there appears to have been a more loyal support of the American side of the question at issue than was shown in many other towns in the county. In the Northampton convention and the frequent other assemblages to voice a protest against the prosecution of the war this town did not send a delegate, and it is believed that the sentiment here was one of general loyalty to the cause against Great Britain; but of course there was a small federal contingent in the town who opposed war and favored peace.

During the war a regiment of infantry was raised in the south part of the county and was placed under command of Col. Enos Foot of Southwick. These troops marched for Boston about the middle of October, 1814, and spent about forty days

in camp at Dorchester, this being the extent of their service during what was locally called "Governor Strong's war." The strength of the town contingent of men in this event is not known, yet among the Southwick soldiers who took part in the active struggle were Abraham Rising, Robert Forward, David Noble, Elisha Steer, Benj. Lounsberry and Leonard Smith.

In the war of 1861-5 this town is credited with having sent into service a total of 110 men, whereas in fact the number was near 125 men in all branches of the service. These were scattered through the several regiments recruited in Hampden county, notably the 27th, 34th and 46th regiments of infantry, and the 2d regiment of cavalry.

Southwick always has been known as an agricultural town, and many foundations of substantial fortunes have been laid by persevering effort on the part of thrifty husbandmen in that direction and in the special growth of tobacco. If the reader will glance over the succession of selectmen it may be seen that more than one hundred names of well-to-do farmers are there mentioned, whose first and only source of income was the old home farm. During the first half of the last century the best results in this field of labor were achieved, but the last half century has not been without its successes. In this time thrifty farmers have not only acquired a competency, but have also been active factors in the civil history of the town. We refer to such men as James Black, a farmer and an influential citizen; Edwin Gilbert, who with other interests owned a saw and grist mill; John Boyle, farmer, contractor and miller; Amos Eason, long time a selectman; Thaddeus Foot and Gen. Joseph Forward, who were for years identified with local interests; Deacon Horace Noble, farmer; also Sardis, Creighton and Seth Gillett, Quartius Black, Charles Bingham, Matthew Field, Robert Forward, "Uncle Sol." Smith, Tuttle Webb and Oliver Root. This list might be extended by the addition of other equally worthy names, but the above will suffice to show something of the character and quality of the factors in town history during the last half century.

If it be permissible that we speak briefly of some of the prominent farmers, producers and men of business of the present

On Southwick Street

time, naturally we should feel called upon to mention the names of such men as Calvin S. Miller, former representative and leading republican; Edwin C. Hills, substantial farmer; Birney G. Holcomb, Charles H. Phelps and George Doherty, farmers and present selectmen; William F. Fletcher, miller, grain dealer and cemetery commissioner; Frank W. Noble and H. L. Miller, tobacco buyers; Charles A. Reed, merchant and postmaster; Henry R. Barnes, wagon maker; Frederick M. Arnold, a factor in democratic politics; John R. Boyle, retired farmer; Dwight H. Halsted, farmer; Dr. F. Knight Porter, physician, town clerk and justice of the peace; L. S. Wetherbee, treasurer and collector; Amasa Holcomb, Joseph M. and A. J. Forward, William Boyle, and others.

Southwick attained its maximum population in 1830, since which time there has been a gradual though not serious decrease in number of inhabitants. At the time of the colonial census in 1776 the town had 841 inhabitants, and at the time of the first regular federal census in 1790, the number was exactly the same. The subsequent changes, as shown by the census reports, may be noted as follows: 1790, 841; 1800, 867; 1810, 1,229; 1820, 1,255; 1830, 1,355; 1840, 1,214; 1850, 1,120; 1855, 1,130; 1860, 1,188; 1865, 1,155; 1870, 1,100; 1875, 1,114; 1880, 1,104; 1885, 982; 1890, 944; 1895, 961; 1900, 1,040.

Schools.—In 1775, when the town's population was more than 800, there was voted for school maintenance the sum of 15 pounds. In 1777 the amount was increased to 25 pounds. At the beginning of the twentieth century the town annually appropriates about $1,300, receives more than $450 from the general school fund, and expends for schools more than $1,900 each year. In 1781 the town was divided into five school districts. Now there are nine districts, with ten schools, district No. 1, which includes the pretty little hamlet of Southwick, having a public school of ordinary grade and the Dickinson high or grammar school, the latter having been so named in honor of Richard Dickinson, who bequeathed to the town about $16,000. One-half of the income of this fund was provided to be devoted to the support of the grammar school and its free enjoyment by pupils living in the town. Subsequent changes in the school laws have

necessitated corresponding changes in the system of operation of this school, yet the benefits are derived from the fund to the advantage of the townspeople. The Southwick schools employ ten teachers. The school census shows about 200 children between the ages of five and fifteen years.

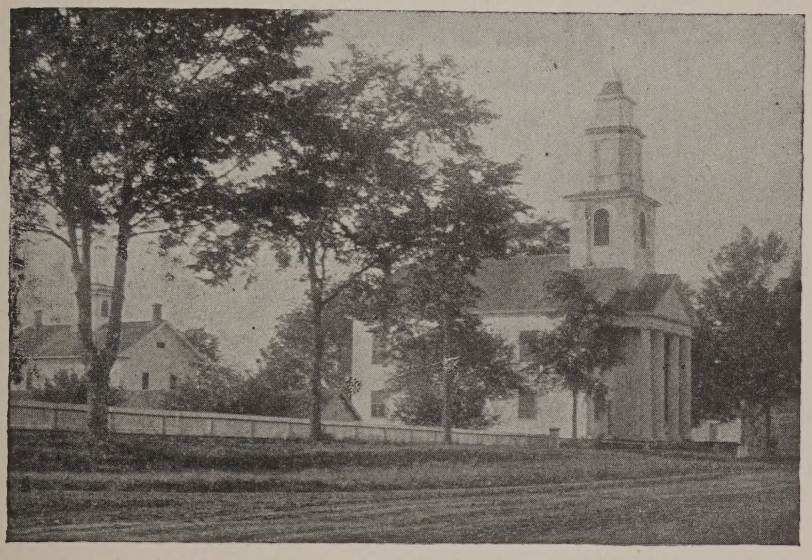
Southwick Village.—This pretty little hamlet, the only trading center of any importance in the town, is located near the geographical center, and on the line of the Northampton branch of the N. Y., N. H. & H. railroad. Where is now the village site was once the lands of the Fowlers, and one of that family as early as 1780 opened a tavern here, and in the same building kept a small stock of goods. This established the center of trade in the town, and in later years the village was built up in the vicinity. The old meeting house originally was located about a mile south, and in 1781 a new edifice was erected at the "Centre", as the place was then known.

For many years the institutions of the village have comprised the Congregational and Baptist churches, the public school and the high school. There has been maintained, too, a comfortable public house and two good stores. The population of the village proper is hardly more than 200 persons. The present interests comprise the general stores of Charles A. Reed and F. W. Healy; the grist mill of Wm. F. Fletcher, located at the station; the wagon shop of H. R. Barnes, and the hotel of which William Sherman is proprietor.

This locality for many years has been noted for its staple tobacco product, and the annual visits of the buyers and speculators constitute an event in local history. Still, the town has its own dealers as well as growers, H. Z. Miller and Frank W. Noble; and also has cigar making establishments of R. B. Campbell and C. J. Gillett.

The Congregational church of Southwick, dates its history to the year 1773, and appears to have been less dependent upon the town than many of the churches whose organization antedated the revolution. Still, in Southwick, the town did give material support to the mother church. The first pastor was Rev. Abel Forward, 1773 to 1786, and the second was Rev. Isaac

Clinton, 1788 to 1807. The first house of worship was built about a mile south of the Centre, and it is believed that the old structure was not completed before the erection of the new meeting house at the village. The latter was built in 1783, and from that time the Congregational church has been the leading ecclesiastical body of the town. In 1824, during the pastorate of Rev. Calvin Foote, the church edifice was burned, and in its stead the present house of worship was erected in 1825. It is in a good state of preservation and is, perhaps, the most preten-



Southwick—Congregational Church

tious building in the town. In membership the church is not strong, yet in attendance at services the congregations are large. This church is under the pastoral care of Rev. L. S. Crawford.

Previous to the revolution a number of Baptist families had settled in Southwick, and soon afterward endeavored to establish meetings of their denomination; and they sought to be excused from paying "rates" for the support of the recognized church, but without success for several years. Finally they were granted "sittings" in the meeting house and were obliged

to accept this concession, yet they attended services at the church of their own faith in Suffield. In 1805, they organized a society and church and called Elder Niles to be their pastor. A house of worship was built in 1822, at Southwick village, and from that year the church has enjoyed a healthful existence. The present pastor is Rev. Thomas Terry.

Among the settlers who came into the town after 1800, were several whose families were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and while they held informal class meetings and occasional services, they did not have sufficient strength to organize a society and church until 1816, when Rev. David Miller was appointed to minister to their spiritual wants. In 1825 the society became possessed of the meeting house at Gillett's Corners, which has since been the seat of the church. At this time the pulpit of this church is supplied by Rev. J. H. Stoney.

CHAPTER V

THE TOWN OF WEST SPRINGFIELD

A noticeable fact in connection with the history of West Springfield is that the town previous to 1810 contained a greater population and in many other respects was regarded as being superior of the mother town on the east side of the river. Some writers of local history have asserted that the town always has been the specially favored child of Springfield. This may have been true to the extent that the settlers on the east side of the Connecticut were well aware that the richest lands of the entire valley region lay opposite the plantation of Springfield, and as such they were sought to be kept a part of the mother town; but there is much in the early history of West Springfield which shows that as far back as 1695 the inhabitants on the east side were not pleased with the idea of having a separate parish on the west side, and for the next three-quarters of a century, until

West Springfield was made a separate town, there was decided opposition to every measure proposed for the especial benefit of the territory and people west of the river; and it was due to a combination of circumstances that West Springfield was created in 1774.

Still, West Springfield as the offspring of the mother town never was a wayward child, as has been intimated, but on the contrary was for years the mainstay and support of the parent body. The people here sought a division of the parish because the public interests demanded such action. Their's was the larger and more populous territory, and when special interests were at stake, town meetings were held across the river. However, the present writer would not have it understood that there ever was serious rivalry between the towns, for as a matter of fact since the territory was divided West Springfield has been looked upon as a valuable auxiliary to the mother town, constituting an important element of the "Greater Springfield"; and to-day West Springfield capital adds materially to the commercial prominence of the county seat. It combines the three valuable elments of being a residence town, an agricultural town and a manufacturing town.

Within the limits of the original territory of West Springfield, William Pynchon and his associates planted their colony in 1636. The proprietor himself had visited the locality and selected a site for the house to be occupied by his company. The structure was built by John Cable and John Woodcock, but upon being told by the Indians that the lands were subject to overflow from the river, the colonists removed to the east side and founded their settlement on the site of Springfield. In 1653 the proprietors made an allotment of lands on the west side of the river, and thereafter similar divisions of remaining lands were made until all these rich acres were disposed of. They were not occupied at once, but for many years were cultivated as meadow and pasture lands and also for the production of various crops. Occasionally one of the settlers would establish his domicile here, but the inhabitants were few and much scattered until after the end of King Philip's war. Soon after 1653 the proprietors

granted house-lots on the west side, chiefly below Westfield (sometimes called Agawam) river, and several others in the north part, which was then known as the Chicopee plain. Among those to whom house-lots were granted about the time referred to there may be recalled the names of Anthony Dorchester, Francis Pepper, Samuel Terry, Hugh Dumbleton, Miles Morgan, John Stewart, Simon Sackett and Obadiah Miller, some of whom were prominent characters in the early history of the town in later years. Thomas Cooper and Abel Leonard are known to have settled in the Agawam district as early as 1660, and from that year to the time of the division of the lands into ten-acre lots in 1707, the settlers gradually crossed over from the east side and made homes for their families on the rich bottom lands of West Springfield.

In 1695 there were thirty-two families and more than two hundred persons on the territory. They considered themselves sufficiently numerous and able to support a minister independent of the old society in Springfield, and accordingly presented their petition to the general court, praying for the establishment of a second parish, for, as the petition recites, they were at great inconvenience in being compelled to cross the great river to attend public worship. Several years previous to this a division of the parish had been asked for on the same grounds, but the request was not granted, and in order to remove the inconvenience complained of a ferry across the river was established for public accommodation. However, in 1695, a division of the territory was again asked, and on May 29, 1696, an act of the general court established the second parish and authorized the employment of a minister.

From this time the parish increased rapidly in population while the lands were developed into fine farms. In 1707 it was determined to divide the unsold lands among the townsmen and it was provided that each male person who had completed his twenty-first year should share in the apportionment. The several localities then were given distinguishing names, such as the Agawam district, including substantially the town now so called; the Street district, now West Springfield; and the Chicopee

The Old Street

plains, meaning the territory now the northern part of West Springfield and also the town and city of Holyoke. At that time, according to early parish records, the beneficiaries under this division numbered 73 persons, and among them were several of the pioneers of the parish.

Those who shared in this division of the lands, and who may be regarded as the proprietors of the second parish at that time, were as follows: Jose (Joseph) Ely, sen., Jose Ely, jun., Wm. Macrany, James Barcker, Jose Barcker, Samuel Barcker, Oliver Barcker (evidently this surname correctly spelled is Barker), John Bag (Bagg, a surname always well represented in the town), Jonathan Bag, Benja. Leonard, Jno. Leonard, John Day, James Tailer, sen. (Taylor), James Tailer, jun., Jonathan Tailer, Samuel Tailer, Edward Foster, John Miller, Samuel Miller, sen., Nathaniel Morgan, Samuel Frost, Nathaniel Sykes, Pela Jones, John Peley, Samuel Warriner, Ebenezer Day, Christian Vanhorn, Charles Ferry, Samuel Day, Samuel Ely, Jonathan Fowler, Mr. Woodbridge, Ebenezer Miller, Joseph Bodortha, sen. (correctly spelled Bodurtha), Samuel Bodortha, sen., Samuel Bodortha, jun., Ebenezer Jones, sen., Ebenezer Jones, jun., Josiah Leonard, Lest (probably Lebbeus) Ball, Samuel Ball, Henry Rogers, John Rogers, Nathaniel Dumbleton, William Scott, James Merrick, John Killam, sen., John Killam, jun., Benj. Smith, Wm. Smith, Jose (probably Joseph) Leonard, sen., Samuel Leonard, Jose Leonard, jun., Samuel Cooper, Samuel Kent, Gershom Hail, sen. (probably Hall is more accurate), Deacon Barber, Thomas Barber, Nath. Bancroft, Jose Hodge, Isaac Frost, James Stevenson, sen., James Stevenson, jun., Jonathan Worthington, Samuel Miller, jun., Thomas Macrany, Joseph Bodortha, jun., Francis Ball, John Ely, Samuel Ferry.

Few indeed of these surnames are known in West Springfield history at the present time, yet hundreds of residents in the county may be able to trace their ancestry to one or more of them. It cannot be claimed that the foregoing list represents the pioneers of our town, for pioneership on the west side of the river was almost coextensive with planting the colony at Springfield in 1636. The house meadows and pasture lands had few

residents earlier than King Philip's war, and during that period and also that of other early Indian wars, the owners of these lands cultivated them but maintained their residences on the east side, within the protection of old Fort Pynchon and the stockades constructed by the settlers for security against savage attacks. It will be remembered that beginning with the Pequot war there was more or less apprehension among the settlers regarding the professed friendship of the Indians in this locality. On the west side of the Connecticut were the tracts which the savages cultivated and after they had parted with their title to the lands they continued their occupancy, often to the annoyance of the whites. Mr. Pynchon held them in subjection through pacific treatment, but after his departure from Springfield there was no strong restraining influence over them by any of his successors in authority. When Springfield was attacked and burned in 1675 the inhabitants living on the west side betook themselves to the protection of the forts in the settlement, and when aid came for the besieged settlers the soldiers who appeared on the west bank of the river had no boats to carry them across to relieve the distressed people.

From the time of creating the Second parish to the incorporation of the town of West Springfield, the territory west of the river comprised the three localities or districts known as Agawam, the Street and the Chicopee plains; and after the organization of the town the boundaries remained substantially unchanged until Holyoke was set off in 1850, followed by Agawam in 1855. During the years following the establishment of the Second parish, there was a steady increase in population on the west side of the river, notwithstanding the fact that the inhabitants there knew little of the blessings of peace. This period of strife, or rather defensive life against Indian depredations, began in earnest with King Philip's war and continued with more or less activity until the last echoes of Shays' rebellion had died away. During this hundred years the region was not subject to more frequent attack than other localities, yet the people here were without defenses of any kind, hence the women and children were constantly in a state of alarm, all of which

had the effect to retard settlement. Still, the parish grew steadily, and as early as 1756, just when the last French and English war was beginning, the worthy parishioners were making an effort to incorporate their territory into a town.

Organization and Civil History.—Soon after 1750, at a time when the inhabitants of Springfield were about equally divided by the Connecticut river, public convenience and individual interests of those who lived on the west side demanded a division of the territory and the creation of a new town in that region. To this proposition the people on the east side set up a determined opposition. They then had a majority of the town officers, and being the shire village of Hampshire county naturally many influential persons were living there and in a great measure controlled public sentiment. It was not at any time assumed that the division would not benefit the people on the west side, but rather the chief ground of opposition came from the fact that the mother town was reluctant to part with so extensive and important a part of her lands.

At first, if local tradition be reliable, the people on the west side submitted to the will of east side influence and made no further efforts in the direction of a separation until 1756, when the subject was renewed with more earnestness. The town meetings in earlier years had been held on the east side and nearly all the officers were selected from the inhabitants there. The moneys raised for town improvements were expended largely in the village of Springfield and regions adjoining, yet the west siders were constantly taxed on account of these things and received small part of the benefits. This condition of affairs was made the subject of special action at a meeting of the inhabitants of the Second parish held July 15, 1756, and it was then determined to apply to the general court for an act incorporating the parish with full town powers and privileges. At the same time a committee comprising Capt. Benjamin Day, Doctor John Vanhorne, Capt. Joseph Miller and Josiah Day was appointed to see that the desire of the inhabitants was carried into effect.

With this meeting the real contest between the east and west sides was begun, and the records indicate that some feeling

actually entered into the controversy. So long as town meetings were held on the east side the voters of that locality outnumbered those who were compelled to cross the river, hence no substantial gain was made by the Second parish during the first few years of the struggle for a division. In the meantime some concessions were made; a reasonable share of the public appropriations was expended on the west side and occasionally town meetings were assembled there, but the end most earnestly sought was not attained and nothing short of that would satisfy the people of the Second parish. As years passed public feeling again was revived and at the annual town meeting in 1773 the matter came before the voters in an attempt to settle existing differences. To this end an adjourned meeting was held March 25 in the meeting house of the Second parish. On that occasion it was "voted to choose a committee to consider the present state of the town, the disputes and animosities that subsist between the several parts, the matters that lie before this meeting to be acted upon, and the unhappy embarrassments that attend the same, and to project some method to remove them, and to report at this time".

The committee comprised Col. John Worthington, Moses Bliss, Deacon Daniel Harris, Deacon Nathaniel Ely (2d), Moses Field, John Hale, Col. Benjamin Day, Deacon Jonathan White, Lieut. John Morgan, Lieut. Benjamin Leonard, Asaph Leonard, Abraham Burbank, Joseph Ely, Deacon Edward Chapin and Ensign Phineas Chapin. Through its efforts this committee (which comprised a number of the most influential and respected men of Springfield) settled several of the minor questions in dispute, but its members were forced to the conclusion that satisfactory division of the territory could best be made by "an indifferent and judicious committee of disinterested persons in the neighboring towns," who should "repair to this town to view the situation of its parts, to consider its circumstances, and to judge at large thereon what division and on what terms and conditions shall be made thereof," etc., "to the end that the town may be divided in such manner as may in all respects be best."

The report of the committee was accepted by the town, and it was voted that William Williams, Erastus Wolcott and Joseph

Root be a committee to visit the town, "view the situation of its parts, to consider its circumstances," etc., and to report the same. In due season the worthy commissioners did fully examine the premises and render a report of their proceedings and determination, but upon submitting the question of its acceptance by the town a negative vote prevailed and the proposition was rejected.

About this time other localities than the Second parish were asking for acts of incorporation and as a consequence the mother town found itself besieged with petitions for a division of its territory, and it probably was the conflict of these several interests that led to the rejection of the report of the disinterested commissioners. The desired end not being gained through this means the affected parishes applied themselves to the legislature with petitions for a division of Springfield by the direct action of the general court. In December, 1773, the town voted to appoint agents to make answers to the general court regarding the several petitions in question, and selected Col. Benjamin Day, Lieut. Benjamin Leonard and Nathaniel Ely as its representatives before that body. At the same time also a committee was chosen to prepare instructions for the guidance of the agents. These commissioners were Dr. Charles Pynchon, Justin Ely, John Hale, Jonathan White, Benjamin Ely and Abraham Burbank. On June 20, 1774, the town voted to accept the report of the convention and ratified the action of the commissioners, and on February 23 the general court passed "an act for dividing the township of Springfield and erecting the western part thereof into a separate town by the name of West Springfield," the effective portion of which act reads as follows:

"Whereas, by reason of the great extent of the township of Springfield, the remote settlements, disputes, controversies and different interests of the inhabitants thereof, the difficulty and often the impracticability of the assembly in town meetings for elections and other necessary purposes by reason of the great river Connecticut almost equally dissecting the township, it is necessary that there be a division thereof."

"Be it enacted, by the governor, council and house of representatives: That that part of the township of Springfield lying

on the west side of Connecticut river, and the inhabitants thereof, be constituted and erected into a different town by the name of West Springfield, and be invested with all the powers, privileges and immunities which by the laws of this province towns have and enjoy.''

This act created a new town according to the desires of its inhabitants, but it contained a provision that exempted from taxation for parish purposes all the lands known as the ''Great and General Field,'' comprising all the territory between the ferry over the Connecticut at the so-called upper wharf and the river called Agawam. This reservation included much of the most desirable lands in what now is West Springfield, Mittineague and Merrick, which were chiefly owned by inhabitants east of the river; men of influence and property who prevailed upon the legislature to exempt them from taxation for the support of the ministry in the Second parish. The inhabitants of the new jurisdiction promptly represented their new grievance to the general court, but without satisfactory result, and the lands thus exempted were not chargeable for the support of the church in West Springfield, and thus the Springfield people retaliated upon the west siders for their attempt to remove the seat of government of the town from the east to the west side of the river.

Within its original boundaries as established by the act of 1774 the new town of West Springfield comprised an extensive territory on the west side of Connecticut river, stretching away from the foot of old Mt. Tom on the north to the Connecticut state line on the south, a distance of about twenty-five miles, and extending west from the river an average distance of more than six miles. It comprised the richest lands of the mother town, and its farming areas were eagerly sought by the early settlers just as they have been sought in all subsequent years.

The town retained its original territory for more than three-quarters of a century, and during that period it ranked as one of the most important civil divisions of the county, and as an agricultural town it stood first in the region. In the latter respect its prestige never has been lost, and to-day the ownership

of a farm in the fertile bottom lands bordering on the Connecticut river is the natural equivalent of a competency. Within the last quarter of a century the central portion of the town has become a desirable residence locality for Springfield business men, thrifty railroad employees and others in other avocations in life, whose acquisition has been for the general good. In certain localities manufacturing establishments of importance have gained a permanent foothold, and by furnishing employment to hundreds of wage earners all local interests are promoted and are maintained in a healthful condition.

Although two parishes were the early and direct outgrowth of the Second parish, there was no nearer territorial division of the town until March 14, 1850, when the northern portion commonly known as the "Ireland parish" was set off and constituted a town by the name of Holyoke, which now is a splendid industrial city, the name and fame of which is known throughout the whole land. In the same manner, on May 17, 1855, the southern part of West Springfield, long before referred to in local history as the parish of Agawam, within the bounds of which the Pynchon colony intended to found their plantation, was separated from the mother town and was called by the old Indian name of Agawam. Thus the year 1855 found the town to contain only about one-third of its original territory and hardly more than one-half the number of inhabitants it could boast fifteen years before.

Having thus traced the civil history of the town, it is proper in the present connection to furnish the names of persons who have been identified with that history in the capacities of selectmen and town clerks, and also the representatives in the general court from the organization of the town to the creation of Hampden county in 1812; the representatives in subsequent years will be found in the county civil lists.

Selectmen.—1774, Col. Benjamin Day, Deacon Jonathan White, Col. Benjamin Ely, Deacon John Leonard, Lieut. Benjamin Leonard; 1775, Col. Benj. Ely, Deacon John Leonard, Lieut. Benj. Leonard, Dr. Chauncey Brewer, Justin Ely; 1776, Deacon Reuben Leonard, Capt. Joseph Morgan, Eliphalet Leonard;

1777, Reuben Leonard, Eliphalet Leonard, Charles Ball; 1778, Reuben Leonard, Abraham Burbank, Col. Benj. Ely; 1779, Benj. Day, Jonathan White, Reuben Leonard, Abraham Burbank, Benj. Ely; 1780, Benjamin Stebbins, Capt. Levi Ely, Lieut. Enoch Cooper, Capt. Joseph Ely, Abraham Burbank; 1781, Eliphalet Leonard, Benj. Day, Abraham Burbank, Benj. Stebbins, Enoch Cooper, Joseph Ely, Aaron White; 1782, Jonathan White, Benj. Ely, Abraham Burbank, Benj. Stebbins, Enoch Cooper; 1783, Eliphalet Leonard, Benj. Stebbins, Capt. John Williston, Russell Leonard, Lucius Morgan; 1784, Benj. Day, Benj. Ely, Eliphalet Leonard, Benj. Stebbins, John Williston; 1785, Eliphalet Leonard, Benj. Stebbins, John Williston; 1786, Benj. Ely, Eliphalet Leonard, Abraham Burbank, Benj. Stebbins, John Williston; 1787, Capt. Joseph Morgan, Eliphalet Leonard, Benj. Stebbins, John Williston, Russell Leonard; 1788, Benj. Ely, John Williston, Joseph White, Samuel Phelps, Reuben Leonard, Jr.; 1789-91, John Williston, Reuben Leonard, Jr.; 1792, John Williston, Reuben Leonard, Jr., Joseph White; 1793, John Williston, Reuben Leonard, Jr., Heman Day; 1794, Col. Benj. Ely, John Williston, Reuben Leonard, Jr., Heman Day; 1795, Capt. Joseph Morgan, John Williston, Reuben Leonard, Jr., Heman Day; 1796, Joseph Morgan, John Williston, Reuben Leonard, Jr., Samuel Phelps, Heman Day; 1797, Joseph Morgan, John Williston, Reuben Leonard, Jr., Heman Day, Gad Warriner; 1798, Joseph Morgan, Heman Day, Major Gad Warriner, Lieut. Ruggles Kent, Elias Leonard; 1799, Joseph Morgan, Gad Warriner, Ruggles Kent, Elias Leonard, Horace White, Justin Granger; 1800, Heman Day, Gad Warriner, Lieut. Benj. Ashley, Robert Ely, Dr. Timothy Horton, Justin Leonard; 1801, Heman Day, Benj. Ashley, Robert Ely, Timothy Horton, Justin Leonard; 1802, Heman Day, Robert Ely, Col. Samuel Flower, Timothy Horton; 1803, Heman Day, Robert Ely, Timothy Horton, Pliny White, Samuel Flower; 1804, Heman Day, Robert Ely, Timothy Horton, Pliny White, Maj. and Col. David Morley; 1805, Heman Day, Robert Ely, Timothy Horton, Pliny White, David Morley; 1806, Heman Day, Timothy Horton, Pliny White, Robert Ely, David Morley; 1807, Robert Ely,

Timothy Horton, Pliny White, David Morley, Jonathan Smith, Jr.; 1808, Timothy Horton, David Morley, Jonathan Smith, Jr., Luke Parsons, Aaron Bagg; 1809, Elias Leonard, Timothy Horton, Jonathan Smith, Jr., Luke Parsons, Aaron Bagg; 1810, Timothy Horton, Jona. Smith, Jr., Luke Parsons, Aaron Bagg; 1811-12, Elias Leonard, Timothy Horton, Jonathan Smith, Jr., Aaron Bagg, Luther Frink; 1813, Timothy Horton, Jonathan Smith, Jr., Aaron Bagg, Luther Frink, Horace Flower; 1814, Timothy Horton, Aaron Bagg, Horace Flower, James Kent, Peres Hitchcock; 1815, Elias Leonard, Timothy Horton, Aaron Bagg, James Kent, Peres Hitchcock; 1816-17, Elias Leonard, Timothy Horton, Luke Parsons, Aaron Bagg, James Kent; 1818-21, Timothy Horton, Luke Parsons, Aaron Bagg, James Kent, Alfred Flower; 1822, Timothy Horton, Luke Parsons, Alfred Flower, Ruggles Kent, Jonathan Parsons; 1823, Timothy Horton, Luke Parsons, Aaron Bagg, James Kent, Alfred Flower; 1824, Timothy Horton, Luke Parsons, Aaron Bagg, James Kent, Alfred Flower; 1825, Luke Parsons, James Kent, Alfred Flower, David Hastings, Hosea Day; 1826, Luke Parsons, Alfred Flower, David Hastings, Hosea Day, Caleb Rice; 1827, Luke Parsons, Hosea Day, Caleb Rice, Spencer Flower, Lewis Warriner; 1828, Hosea Day, Caleb Rice, Spencer Flower, Lewis Warriner, Warren Chapin; 1829, Hosea Day, Caleb Rice, Spencer Flower, Lewis Warriner, Warren Chapin; 1830, Caleb Rice, Spencer Flower, Linus Bagg, Benj. Leonard, Henry Ely; 1831, James Kent, Linus Bagg, Benj. Leonard, Henry Ely, Josiah Johnson; 1832, James Kent, Linus Bagg, Benj. Leonard, Henry Ely, Josiah Johnson; 1833, Linus Bagg, Benjamin Leonard, Josiah Johnson, Charles Ball, Jr., Edward Parsons; 1834, Spencer Flower, Linus Bagg, Charles Ball, Jr., Samuel Noble; 1835, Spencer Flower, Linus Bagg, Henry Ely, Edward Parsons, Samuel Noble; 1836, Linus Bagg, Henry Ely, Samuel Noble, Lester Williams, Silas Dewey; 1837, Col. Aaron Bagg, Josiah Johnson, Samuel Noble, Lester Williams, Silas Dewey, Willard Ely; 1838, Col. Aaron Bagg, Josiah Johnson, Lester Williams, Willard Ely, Lyman Whitman; 1839, Aaron Bagg, Lester Williams, Silas Dewey, Willard Ely, Lyman Whitman, Calvin Wheeler; 1840, Aaron

Bagg, Lester Williams, Silas Dewey, Willard Ely, Lyman Whitman, Ebenezer B. Pelton; 1841, Aaron Bagg, Lester Williams, Silas Dewey, Willard Ely, Lyman Whitman; 1842, Aaron Bagg, Spencer Flower, Lester Williams, Silas Dewey, Lyman Whitman, Cyrus Frink; 1843, Aaron Bagg, Spencer Flower, Lester Williams, Silas Dewey, Cyrus Frink, Newbury Norton; 1844, Aaron Bagg, Josiah Johnson, Lester Williams, Asa Clark, Lucien M. Ufford; 1845, Edward Parsons, Newbury Norton, Isaac Roberts, Russell Gilmore, Homer Ely; 1846, Edward Parsons, Newbury Norton, Isaac Roberts, Russell Gilmore, Homer Ely; 1847, Edward Parsons, Newbury Norton, Isaac Roberts, Russell Gilmore, Homer Ely; 1848, Aaron Bagg, Edward Parsons, Augustine Ludington, Cyrus Frink, Herrick Brooks, Wm. S. Bowe, Enoch Leonard, Nehemiah D. Perry, Samuel Flower, Harvey Bliss; 1849, Edward Parsons, Lester Hamlin, Ralph Adams, Jonathan O. Mosely, Harvey Chapin, Daniel G. White; 1850, Edward Parsons, Jonathan O. Mosely, Daniel G. White, Jonathan W. Freeland; 1851-53, Edward Parsons, Wm. S. Bowe, Jonathan O. Mosely, Daniel G. White, Jonathan W. Freeland, Samuel Smith; 1854, Edward Parsons, Aaron Bagg, Wm. S. Bowe, Lester Hamlin, L. S. Brown, George B. Beebe; 1855, Edward Parsons, Samuel Smith, S. L. Griggs, Orson Swetland, James T. Smith, Orrin Root; 1856, Aaron Bagg, Edward Parsons, Jonathan O. Mosely, James P. Ely; 1857, Aaron Bagg, Edward Parsons, Jonathan O. Mosely, James P. Ely; 1858-59, S. B. Day, Riley Smith, Ashley Loomis; 1860, Edward Parsons, James P. Ely, Riley Smith, Ashley Loomis; 1861-62, Nathan Loomis, Alvin Sibley, Frank F. Smith; 1863, Aaron Bagg, Charles C. Smith, Lucius Dwinnell; 1864-65, Albert D. Bagg, C. W. Hoisington, Aaron L. Hayes; 1866, Albert D. Bagg, Aaron L. Hayes, William L. Smith; 1867, Aaron L. Hayes, William Smith, Harvey D. Bagg; 1868-69, Harvey D. Bagg, Charles White, Henry A .Sibley; 1870-73, Harvey D. Bagg, Henry A. Sibley, Amos Russell; 1874, Alvin Sibley, Harvey D. Bagg, Amos Russell; 1875, Henry A. Sibley, John O. Moseley, Russell H. Pepper; 1876, Harvey D. Bagg, John O. Moseley, Ebenezer S. Flower; 1877, Harvey D. Bagg, Henry A. Sibley, William Chapman;

1878, Wm. Chapman, Harvey D. Bagg, John O. Moseley; 1879, Wm. Chapman, Amos Russell, Aaron Bagg; 1880, Wm. Chapman, Aaron Bagg, Alexander Grant; 1881-82, Harvey D. Bagg, Alexander Grant, Rufus Ames; 1883, Amos Russell, Henry A. Sibley, Harvey D. Bagg; 1884-85, Harvey D. Bagg, Ebenezer S. Flower, Talcott A. Rogers; 1886-88, Ebenezer S. Flower, Talcott A. Rogers, James F. Hayes; 1889, James F. Hayes, Daniel F. Melcher, L. V. B. Cook; 1890, Daniel F. Melcher, James F. Hayes, Amos Russell; 1891-92, Harrison Loomis, Amos Russell, Talcott A. Rogers; 1893, Harrison Loomis, Amos Russell, James M. Justin; 1894, James M. Justin, Harrison Loomis, Henry E. Schmuck; 1895, Harrison Loomis, Henry E. Schmuck, Talcott A. Rogers; 1896, Harrison Loomis, John O. Moseley, Talcott A. Rogers; 1897, Talcott A. Rogers, Henry E. Schmuck, Dexter E. Tilley; 1898, Charles D. Farnsworth, Henry E. Schmuck, Dexter E. Tilley; 1899-1901, Harrison Loomis, Charles D. Farnsworth, Michael F. Burke.

Assessors.[1]—Henry A. Sibley, L. V. B. Cook, Harrison Loomis, 1898; Harrison Loomis, 1899; Lycurgus V. B. Cook, 1900; Henry A. Sibley, 1901.

Town Clerks.—Dr. John Vanhorne, 1774; Dr. Chauncey Brewer, 1775-80; Justin Ely, 1781; Aaron White, 1782-95; Samuel Lathrop, 1796-98; Seth Lathrop, 1799; Aaron White, 1800-12; Reuben Champion, Jr., 1813-21; Caleb Rice 1822-34; Reuben Champion, Jr., 1835-42; Michael Marsh, 1843-47; Edwin F. Perkins, clerk pro tempore, 1847; Enoch N. Smith, 1848-53; Charles White, 1854; Lewis Leonard, 1855; Charles White, 1856-62; Edward Parsons, 1863; John M. Harmon, 1864-78; George N. Gilbert, 1879; John M. Harmon, 1880-89; Elisha P. Barthol-mew, 1890; Fred H. Sibley, 1891—now in office.

Representatives to General Court.—Col. Benj. Day, 1774, '78; Major and Col. Benj. Ely, 1775, 1778-80, 1782, 1785, 1788-89; Deacon Jonathan White, 1776-77, 1779, 1787; Justin Ely, 1777, 1780-85, 1790-97; Eliphalet Leonard, 1777; Abraham Bur-bank, 1780-81, 1783-84; Capt. John Williston, 1786-89; Jonathan Smith, Jr., 1794-96, 1798-1811, 1814-19; Jere Stebbins, 1804,

[1]Previous to 1898 the selectmen performed the duties of assessors.

1808; Heman Day, 1805; Maj. Gad Warriner, 1805, 1809, 1814-15; Col. Samuel Flower, 1806, 1810; Lieut. Charles Ball, 1806, 1808, 1809, 1811-12, 1815-16, 1820, 1827; Dr. Timothy Horton, 1807, 1810, 1811; Luke Parsons, 1807, 1810, 1813-14, 1822-23; Maj. Jesse McIntire, 1808; Elias Leonard, 1809, 1811, 1813; Capt. John Porter, 1812-13; James Kent, 1812-13, 1827; Horace Flower, 1812. For later town representatives see county civil list.

Town Officers, 1901.—Harrison Loomis, Charles D. Farnsworth, Michael F. Burke, *selectmen;* Fred H. Sibley, *town clerk and treasurer;* Harrison Loomis, Lycurgus V. B. Cook, H. A. Sibley, *assessors;* Aaron Bagg, J. C. Worcester, *auditors;* Dr. P. J. Flagg, H. A. Downey, M. D., S. A. Bragg (agt.), *board of health;* J. J. Lysaght (chm.), Frank P. Sargent, Arthur A. Sibley, H. E. Schmuck, J. P. Gaffney, A. F. Royce, *school committee;* W. S. Bagg, Daniel G. White, Emma L. Bragg, *trustees public library;* Fred H. Sibley, Henry L. Norton, Henry C. Bliss, W. S. McCartney, Ethan Brooks, *justices of the peace.*

As an important integral part of the mother town of Springfield the region called West Springfield was the scene of many events of historic interest, to which allusion is made in the general chapters of this work. During the days of the parish character, which covered a period of nearly a century, the inhabitants laid the foundation for the town itself, and when the act of incorporation went into effect, many of the institutions of the jurisdiction were already established. In accordance with a general New England custom an ample park was laid out and decorated with thrifty trees, a church society was formed and at least one good town school was regularly supported at the public expense.

In the year immediately preceding the organization of the town the authorities had formed and equipped two companies of minutemen who were regularly drilled in military tactics on the common, or green, as the park land was first known. Therefore, in April, 1775, when the news of the British attack on Lexington reached the west side of the river, this loyal people quickly prepared for duty and sent its companies on the march to

Boston. The records of West Springfield soldiery throughout the period of the revolution are somewhat imperfect, yet the personnel of its companies of minutemen have been preserved. We know that these companies were prepared for service when their aid was needed, and we also know that on April 20, 1775, both troops started for the scene of action.

Capt. Chapin's company was made up as follows: Captain, Enoch Chapin; first lieutenant, Samuel Flower; second lieutenant, Luke Day; sergeants, Abiathar Robinson, Joseph White, Joel Leonard, William Kendall, Jacob Day; corporals, Samuel Dumbleton, Timothy Leonard, Daniel White, John Kellum, Pelatiah Bliss; fifers, Jared Smith, Andrew Goss; privates, Joshua Guile, Thomas Francis, Oliver Dewey, Abel Chapin, Thomas Green, John Inglesbee, Joshua Chapman, Thomas Trescott, Vinton Leonard, Mishock Remington, Edward Ely, Ebenezer Inglesbee, Enoch Ely, Gideon Jones, Chauncey Taylor, Roger Miller, David Rogers, Joseph Young, Gideon Morgan, Oliver Bagg, John Rockwell, John Burger, Abel Cooley, Dan Taylor, Lewis Ely, Timothy Day, Samuel Cooper, Benjamin Stebbins, Judah Bagg, Derrick Van Horne, David Merrick, Nathaniel King, Simeon Smith, Jesse Morgan, Joseph Copley, Joel Day, Benjamin Loomis, Jonathan Smith.

Major Colton's company of West Springfield minutemen was comprised as follows: Major Andrew Colton, captain commanding; first lieutenant, Gideon Burt; second lieutenant, Walter Pynchon; sergeants, Aaron Steele, William White; corporals, Ambrose Collins, Luther Hitchcock; fifers, William Cotton, David Chapin; drummer, Lewis Chapin; sentinels, Jeduthan Sanderson, Israel Chapin, Samuel Gridley, Alexander Bliss, Aaron Parsons, jun., Aaron Ferry, Gad Horton, Samuel Bliss, James Nash, Abel Hancock, jun., George Wright, jun., Matthew Langdon, jun., Peter Colton, John Stedman; privates, Abner Russell, Abel Cooley, John Warner, jun., Justin Smith, Samuel Edson, Patrick Nugent, Benjamin Parsons, John Ingersoll, Calvin Bliss, Henry Stiles, Luther Colton, Abner Cooley, Samuel Parsons, Noah Bliss, Joseph King, Caleb Cooley, jun., Zadock Bliss, Ebenezer Romerill, James Taylor, Spencer Merrick, Sylvanus Hall, Moses Bliss, Joseph Parsons.

It may be stated that the foregoing roster contains the names of a few who were members of the companies but who in fact did not then live within the boundaries of the town; and in like manner it also may be said that the roster by no means represents the contribution of West Springfield to the service during the revolution. The service of these companies at the time of the Lexington outbreak was comparatively short, and on their return home the men quite generally re-enlisted, and served for various periods in several localities during the war. Some of them found their way into the ranks of the continental army, and on one occasion Capt. Levi Ely's company of West Springfield men was a part of Col. Brown's Berkshire regiment in service in the Mohawk valley in the province of New York, taking part in the disastrous affair at Stone Arabia, where both Col. Brown and Capt. Ely were slain by the merciless savage horde set upon them by the British. We find, also, that West Springfield men participated in the other movements in New York in the expeditions against Ticonderoga and the Canadas. They gave excellent service to their country and some of them laid down their lives on the battlefield. The town's record throughout the war was commendable and the burden of debt created in providing for bounties, ammunition and supplies was cheerfully borne and paid by the survivors of the struggle and their descendants.

Tradition says that during the revolution the common—now the park—in West Springfield was the temporary camping ground of two British armies; that Gen. Amherst and his strong force of 7,000 men were encamped there for two days and nights, resting while enroute to Canada (this statement must be taken with liberal grain of allowance); and that later, in the early fall of 1777, Gen. Burgoyne's captive army was temporarily encamped here while enroute to Boston. It may have been true that a part of Burgoyne's was halted in the town, and it also may have been true that a number of his soldiers were so favorably impressed with the locality that they renounced allegiance to the British arms and thereafter dwelt among the American inhabitants of the vicinity. That the Hessian general,

Riedesel, was the guest here of the venerable Rev. Dr. Lathrop we may not question, and that the acquisition to the town of such surnames as Miller, Isensee, Vanganeer, Hartunk, Worthy, Pollock, Salter, Stackman, Ewing, Hilliam, came from the captive Britons, we are not disposed to controvert. The extensive common lands bordering on the river was the rendezvous of troops on various occasions, and in the course of a few years after the close of the war the park tract was the appointed training ground of another force of men who sought to overthrow the authority of the state government, to abolish the courts, and to administer the laws according to their own ill-conceived notions of justice and right.

The insurrectionary movement known as Shays' rebellion was not confined to the demonstrations in West Springfield, although one of the leaders of the insurgent forces, Luke Day, and a numerous following came from among the inhabitants of the town. And it cannot be claimed that followers of either Shays or Day were more numerous here than in several other towns, but it happened that the malcontents rendezvoused and were drilled by Day on the common, near the old tavern, a representation of which appears in this work. Locally and generally the period was one of great excitement, and except for the timely and determined action of Gen. Shepard's militia, the combined forces of Shays and Day might have captured the arms and military stores of the government deposited in Springfield. For several days previous to the so-called battle, Day's followers had spread a feeling of panic among the quiet inhabitants of our town and by petty offenses against good order many families had been driven from their homes. In all Capt. Day's force numbered about 400 men and boys, all fairly well armed and drilled. Shays had sent a messenger across to Day informing the latter that he should join in an attack upon the armory on January 25, 1787, but Day's reply to the effect that he could not be ready until the next day did not reach its destination; therefore when the attack in fact was begun Day's men were not at hand but were held in check by the militia on guard at the crossing place. After Shays' ignominious defeat Gen. Shepard sent a strong

detachment against Day's horde and quickly drove them from the town. Nearly all the people in anticipation of a determined conflict at arms had fled toward Tatham and Amostown, but Day's horde showed no disposition to give battle and fled up the river on the first approach of the militia. This was the end of Shays' rebellion so far as it related to our town, and after the excitement of the occasion was passed nearly all the insurgents returned to their homes and submitted quietly to the laws of the commonwealth. This eventful struggle is made the subject of extended mention in an earlier chapter in this work, hence needs no greater detail in this place.

After the end of this unfortunate affair, which (except for the few shots fired by Gen. Shepard's militia on the occasion referred to) was an almost bloodless war, then came an era of peace and progress previously unknown in local annals, and during the next two-score years the population of the town was nearly doubled. Indeed, in 1790, West Springfield contained 2,367 inhabitants, while the shire town across the river had only 1,574 inhabitants. At that time our own town, in point of population and value of lands, surpassed any other civil division in what became Hampden county; and this prestige and supremacy were maintained until after Springfield became the seat of justice of the new county of Hampden, in 1812. However, let us turn to the statistics of the census reports and note the actual fluctuations in population from the time of the colonial census in 1776 to the close of the nineteenth century: 1776, 1,744; 1790, 2,367; 1800, 2,835; 1810, 3,109; 1820, 3,246; 1830, 3,270; 1840, 3,626; 1850, 2,979; 1855, 2,090; 1860, 2,105; 1865, 2,100; 1870, 2,606; 1875, 3,739; 1880, 4,149; 1885, 4,448; 1890, 5,077; 1895, 6,125; 1900, 7,105.

From this it may be seen that the growth of the town from the year of its incorporation has been constant and healthful. The incorporation of Holyoke in 1850 took from the mother town about one-third of its territory and 3,245 inhabitants; and the creation of Agawam in 1855 took another third of West Springfield's original territory and 1543 more of its population.

During the period of the war of 1812-15, which in this locality was a political struggle rather than a contest at arms,

the town made little history, yet the occasion was one of much warm discussion between the advocates of peace at any cost and those who favored another conflict with Great Britain. The town records for this period furnish little of more than ordinary interest, but it is understood that in West Springfield there was more genuine loyalty to the American side of the contention than was exhibited in many other towns in the county. And it does not appear that this town openly declared in favor of the peace party, but that the delegates to the famous Northampton convention—Pelatiah Bliss and Timothy Burbank—were only the representatives of a faction in the division of public sentiment. It is known that several West Springfield men were members of Major Jacob Bliss' brigade that set out for Boston in October, 1814, and were participants in what was known as Gov. Stone's war, yet we have not to record any losses of serious consequence during that struggle of a few weeks.

It was perhaps during that memorable period of American history known as the war of 1861-65 that this town achieved its greatest military record, for, as the story of the struggle is told in another chapter, West Springfield contributed liberally both of men and money for the maintenance of the federal union and the honor of the national flag. During the war the town is credited with having furnished for the several arms of the service an aggregate of two hundred men, who were divided among the regiments recruited in the county and vicinity. This was fully ten per centum of the town's population in 1860, but of all who entered the service the entire number did not return home at the end of the war; and to-day many loyal sons of the town are buried in southern graves. Others who returned died at home and are resting in the town cemeteries, and their memory is preserved with the recurrence of each Memorial day and the splendid monument erected in the graveyard near the old church on the hill. The history of the several regiments in which were West Springfield men will be found in an earlier chapter of this work, hence further allusion to their service in this place is unnecessary.

As constituted within its present boundaries, West Springfield contains an area of about 11,000 acres of land and an aggre-

gate population of 7,105 persons. Altogether, the town is fortunately situated and has perhaps less barren lands than many other towns bordering on the Connecticut; and at the same time there is found here an unusual proportion of rich farming land, the equal of which no other town in this county can boast.

The town's lands are sub-divided into districts, not by process of established authority but by the custom of the people for convenient designation. During the early years of the century just passed a bridge was built across the river connecting this town with the mother town on the east side. In the course of a few years a little hamlet was established on the West Springfield side and when the place had gained sufficient business importance to warrant the location of a post-office there, the latter was given the name of Merrick, in allusion to one of the prominent factors in its history. Although without definite boundaries Merrick is a busy locality and contains the extensive works of the Springfield Glazed Paper company, incorporated in 1873 and capitalized at $100,000. This locality also has other important business interests and several institutions, the latter of which will be mentioned in their proper place.

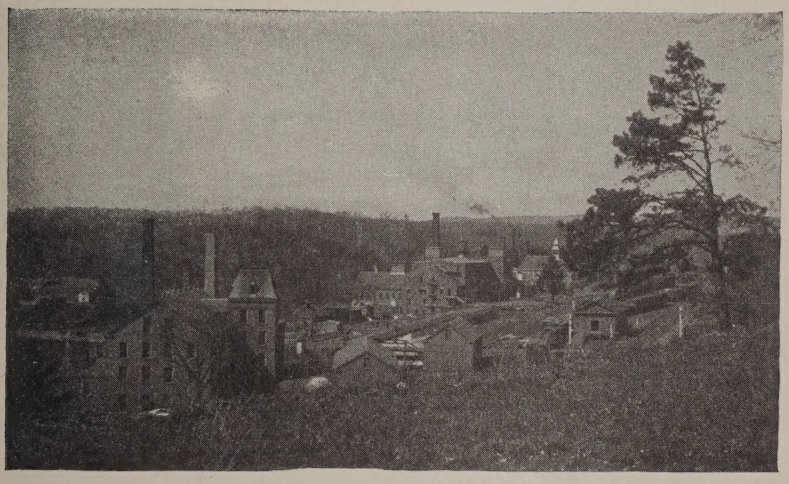
In the southern central part of the town, on what properly is the Agawam part of Westfield river, but which is usually called Agawam river, about one and one-half miles from the Connecticut, is a busy locality, known as Mittineague, which originally was spelled Mittineaque. In the early history of the region this was a favorite resorting place for the Indian inhabitants, who found an abundant supply of fish in the stream while the neighboring forests furnished them with flesh and fur-bearing animals. From time out of mind this locality was valued by the whites on account of its natural water power advantages, but when the town began to assume a position of importance as a manufacturing district a substantial dam was constructed across the stream at Mittineague falls. This was done in 1840, and at the same time several factories were built. In 1848 the Agawam Canal company built an extensive cotton mill and since that time the hamlet has been noted for its manufacturing enterprises. To follow the ownership of each succes-

"The Old Tavern Stand"

A West Springfield memory; one of the few hostelries for which it is not claimed that Gen. Washington ever was entertained within its walls. It was, however, a rendezvous for the self-styled Patriots who took part in Shays' Rebellion, and on the common in front of the tavern Luke Day, one of Shays' followers, assembled and drilled his troops. The magnificent elm tree, shown on the right of the tavern, now shadows a dwelling house

sive factory is not deemed important in this chapter, but those of greatest importance at this time may be noted as the Agawam Paper Co. (built 1859), the Mittineague Paper Co., the Southworth Co., and the Worthy Paper Co., each an industry of prominence and an extensive employer of labor, thus working for the good of the whole town and its people. The population of Mittineague is about one-third of that of the town, and all of its interests and institutions are progressive and permanent.

The region commonly known as Tatham occupies the elevated lands bordering on Westfield. It is a farming locality



A Valley View—Mittineague

several miles distant from Springfield, yet brought directly in communication therewith through an admirable electric railway system. Tatham is well peopled with thrifty farmers and is in all respects a desirable portion of the town. Amostown is a locality near the geographical center of the town, an agricultural district, and Ashleyville is a similar region in the northern part, bordering on the Connecticut. Its name is derived from one of its early prominent families. In this vicinity in years passed various business enterprises have been established and operated with moderate success, and while some minor interests are still

there the region is chiefly peopled with farmers and market gardners.

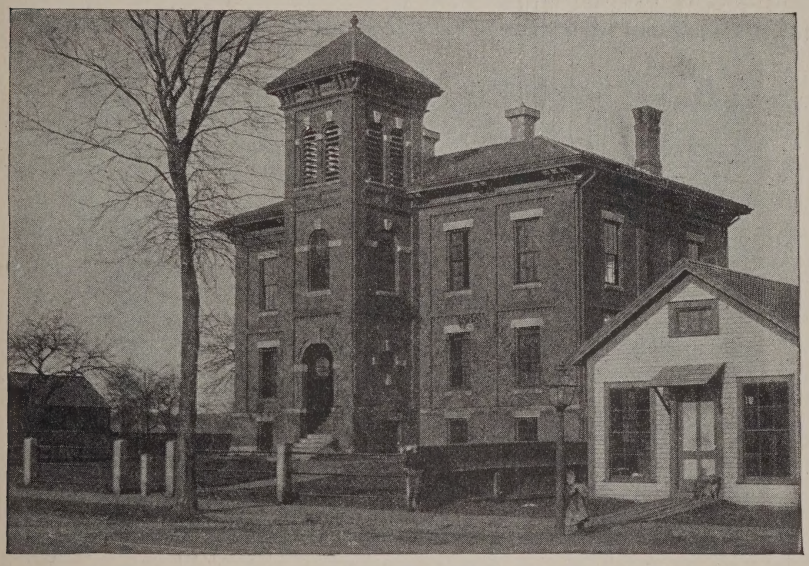
Among the several thickly settled and specially designated localities of the town, that generally known as West Springfield enjoys the greatest historic interest and in many respects is the most desirable as a place of residence. Here, on the bank of the river and extending therefrom westward a considerable distance, our worthy forefathers in the town thoughtfully laid out the spacious park and established the seat of town business, the first church and the school house on that and adjoining lands; and in making provision for ample roadways they also laid out Park and Elm streets in unusual width and planted them on both sides with thrifty trees. For many years the care and preservation of these highways entailed considerable labor and expense, but now every resident of the town commends the action of the early settlers and points with pride to the many evidences of ancestral thrift.

As a business center West Springfield never has claimed especial prominence, yet from the days of the parish to the present time at least one good store has been kept there. As early as 1802 a post-office was established, with Jere Stebbins as postmaster in charge. He was followed by Benjamin Stebbins, Miner Stebbins, Elias Winchell, Henry Cooley, Edward Southworth, M. M. Tallmadge, Michael Walsh, Lester Williams and Dr. P. LeB. Stickney, in the order named, all serving prior to 1850. The first town hall was built in 1820, and the second, the present building occupied for that purpose, and also in part for the high school and fire department uses, was erected in 1873, at a cost of more than $38,000. Occasional additions to the building have been made necessary by the constant increase of the town's population.

Schools.—The school system of West Springfield antedates the history of the town itself by more than a century, and had its beginning previous to the incorporation of the parish. On this branch of local history the records give us only uncertain light, for tradition says that a school was opened on the west side of the river several years before the Second parish was

established. As early as 1654 school lands on Chicopee plains were set off and for many years the avails thereof were applied to school support. As settlement increased school houses were opened in several localities, but it was not until after the adoption of state laws relating to education that a regular system was put in operation in the town.

Previous to 1774 the schools were supported by the mother town of Springfield and while the authorities thereof made some provision for the maintenance of schools west of the river, it was



Main Street School

not the generous support given them by the new town of later years. Beginning with 1704 the records of Springfield make frequent reference to the school west of "the great river," and in 1706, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants of the Second parish, it was voted to have a school house built under the supervision of Deacon Parsons, Samuel Day and Samuel Ely. In 1708 it was voted that the selectmen provide the "west side inhabitants" with a "meet person to teach children to read

and write.'' In 1711 the selectmen engaged Benjamin Colton to ''keepe the school,'' and agreed to pay him 20 pounds for one-half years' teaching. In 1713 Nathaniel Downing was employed as teacher for the ''terme of halfe a yeare'' at the price of 15 pounds, the worthy teacher being allowed a ''fortnight time in said halfe yeare for his harvest and getting in his hay.'' In 1721 John Hooker was employed as teacher, followed by John Woodbridge in 1726, Samuel Ely and John Ashley in 1731, John Ely in 1734, and Nathaniel Atchison in 1735.

Authorities do not agree as to the time of building the first town school house, and it is said that none in fact was built for

School building

actual school purposes earlier than 1737. However this may have been is unimportant, but it is known that the recognized school of the parish was a substantial wooden building, two stories high and stood on the common. The records indicate that it was erected in 1752, and West Springfield tradition has it that it was occupied for school purposes many years—even to the time when high schools became established by general law, and that this building was occupied as such an institution.

When West Springfield became a separate town the authorities established a new system of schools, and in later years, as

the population continued to increase, the territory was divided into convenient districts. In the center district a new school house was built in 1818 on the site where now stands the town hall. It was a brick structure, containing three rooms for pupils on the first floor, while the floor above was occupied for town purposes. The old building was removed in 1873 and gave way to the present town hall and high school. At the time it was believed that the new structure would answer the required purpose for at least half a century, but instead thereof the rapid growth of the town has necessitated various enlargements; and notwithstanding the considerable addition made in 1901 there is no surplus room.

The present admirable school system of the town dates its history from the early years of the century just ended, and especially to the year 1827, when the election of "school committees" superseded the older method of managing the public schools. Originally the question first to be considered was the cost of maintenance, but under the new arrangement the chief object has been the elevation of the standard of the schools, while the expense of maintenance was a secondary consideration. This change came in the nature of radical reform and met with some criticism, but the benefits of the new system were so easily discernable that determined opposition soon subsided. Then, in the selection of school committees the townspeople have exercised wise discrimination and men of known business capacity have been chosen to fill that office. The result has been in establishing an educational system which is not excelled by any similarly situated town in the entire region and one that places the local schools on the same elevated plane with those of Springfield, Westfield and Holyoke. The work of a competent corps of teachers, under careful superintendence, has been a factor in accomplished results, while the cordial support given by the taxpayers to the endeavors of committees and teachers and superintendents has worked advantageously in making for our schools the wide reputation they now enjoy. And in commenting on the splendid results accomplished in our high school during the last ten or fifteen years, some allusion must be made to the

services of John C. Worcester, under whose principalship and largely through whose personal endeavors the present standard of excellence has been attained.

A century ago the town annually voted a few hundred dollars for the support of its schools; in the last current year there was paid for salaries of teachers and superintendent the gross sum of $23,011.16, and for all school expenses the sum of $31,327.43. Still, in 1900 the population of the town was a little more than double the number in 1800. The schools of the town in addition to the high school are located and known as Mittineague (two buildings), Park street, Main street, Meadow street, Bridge street, Riverdale, Ashleyville, Prospect hill, Amostown and Tatham.

Glancing over the town records and school reports it is found that these persons have served in the capacity of members of the school committee: Rev. Reuben S. Hazen, 1827-32, 34-35, 37-38; Dr. G. White, 1827-30, 35-36, 38; Samuel Lathrop, 1827-29; Henry Ely, 1828-30; Horace Palmer, 1827-28; Thomas Barrett, 1827-29; Rev. Wm. B. Sprague, 1827; Rev. Thomas Rand, 1827; Justin Ely, 1829; Hezekiah Griswold, 1830-33; Dr. Reuben Champion, 1830-31; Norman T. Leonard, 1829-30; Solomon Lathrop, 1830, 1832-35; Rev. Thos. E. Vermilye, 1831-34; Rev. Hervey Smith, 1831-39; Rev. Henry Archibald, 1831-32; Rev. Jno. W. McDonald, 1833; Rev. Horatio J. Lombard, 1834-35; Rev. John H. Hunter, 1836; Rev. Jonathan L. Pomeroy, 1836; Rev. P. Brockett, 1836; Elisha Eldridge, 1837; Aaron Day, 1837-38; Rev. Calvin Foote, 1837-38; Rev. A. A. Wood, 1839, 41-45; Dr. Reuben Champion, 1839, 1846-48; William Taylor, 1839; Palmer Gallup, 1839-43; Aaron Bagg, 1840; Horace D. Doolittle, 1840-41; William Gamwell, 1842; Rev. William L. Brown, 1843-45; Rev. Gideon Dana, 1844; Rev. Dillon Williams, 1844-45; Rev. Lester Lewis, 1846; Rev. Thos. Rand, 1846-47; Josiah Johnson, 1847-48; Rev. Ralph Perry, 1848-55; Rev. Simeon Miller, 1848; Daniel G. White, 1848-56; Rev. Asahel Chapin, 1848-49; Dr. P. LeB. Stickney, 1849-51; Rev. Henry M. Field, 1852; Dr. Cyrus Bell, 1851-53; Dr. Nathaniel Downes, 1853, 1856-57; Rev. Henry Cooley, 1854; Rev.

S. D. Ward, 1854-55; Rev. Theron H. Hawkes, 1855-59; Rev. E. Scott, 1855; S. D. Warriner, 1855; Lewis H. Taylor, 1855; E. Clark, 1855; Amzi Allen, 1857, 1860-62; John B. Taylor, 1858; Riley Smith, 1858; James Newton Bagg, 1860-61, 69-70, 72-73; Nathan Loomis, 1861-63; Eden B. Foster, D. D., 1862-64; Rev. Henry M. Powers, 1862-65; Daniel F. Melcher, 1864-65, 1869; Ethan Brooks, 1864-67, 1871, 1892-93; Rev. Moody Harrington, 1864; Rev. J. S. Batchelder, 1865-66; Rev. Perkins K. Clark, 1866-68; Daniel F. Morrill, 1866-69; Norman T. Smith, 1868-70, 1872-74; Dr. Herbert C. Belden, 1870; Emerson Geer, 1871-74, 77; Gideon Wells, 1871; Sarah Isabel Cooley, 1872-74; Angeline Brooks, 1872; Charles E. Merrick, 1872-76; James F. Hayes, 1878-92; L. F. Mellen, 1879; Henry F. Miller, 1880, 1883; Addison H. Smith, 1881, 1886-88; Lester Williams, 1882-85; Thomas O'Keefe, 1884; Urbane H. Flagg, 1886-88; Edwin Smith, 1889, 1892-94; F. M. Robbins, 1890; Henry C. Bliss, 1891; Charles McKernon, 1892-94; Arthur A. Sibley, 1892-96; Edward F. Ely, 1892; George H. Lucas, 1894-97; Frank P. Sargent, 1894-97, 1900; Clarence E. Smith, 1894; Addison H. Smith, 1895-98; E .P. Bragg, 1895-98; John J. Lysaght, 1899; A. F. Royce, 1900; Henry E. Schmuck, 1901; J. P. Gaffney, 1901. *School Committee, 1901.*—John J. Lysaght, chm., Frank P. Sargent, Arthur A. Sibley, Henry E. Schmuck, J. P. Gaffney, A. F. Royce.

The Library.—The first public library in West Springfield was established through the efforts of the parish minister, Rev. Dr. Lathrop, in 1775, with about 40 subscribers to the fund. The books are said to have been carried around from house to house in a large basket and patrons were permitted to select from the total number of less than 60 volumes which comprised the collection. This library was kept in existence until about 1807, when the books were divided among the owners. About 1810 a second library association was formed and was continued until about 1840. During the later years of its operation the books were kept in the town hall, and from this our present public library has evolved.

In itself the present library is the outgrowth of individual enterprise in 1855, but after a brief period the books were

turned over to the town for free distribution, subject to the sole condition that there be annually appropriated the sum of $50 for new books. This condition always has been more than complied with, and in recent years the institution has received generous support from our taxpayers. The library is under the immediate charge of a board of trustees, chosen by the people. On the shelves are now about 6,000 volumes of well selected books. The board of trustees at this time comprises W. S. Bagg, Daniel G. White and Emma L. Bragg; librarian, D. G. White.

The Fire Department.—More than half a century ago a fire company for protection purposes was formed in the town, yet the regularly organized fire department is an institution of quite recent origin. In fact the West Springfield fire department is a comparatively strong and very creditable organization and has no resemblance whatever to the department that existed here more than fifteen years ago. West Springfield, as a town, is known generally throughout New England as a fertile agricultural district, a desirable residence locality, as a well ordered township in all respects, with some claims to importance as a manufacturing region; and in such towns casual observers are not prepared to discover all the appointments and elements of municipalities which in fact are found here.

West Springfield's fire department apparatus comprises two hook and ladder trucks, one horse hose wagon, one four-wheeled hose cart, two two-wheeled hose reels, one reverse reel, and one double-tank chemical combination wagon. The department also has all other apparatus necessary to a well regulated municipality, a good supply of serviceable hose, and an excellent system of fire alarm boxes and signals distributed over its territory. For the operation of the apparatus and department equipment the town has four hose and two hook and ladder companies, known and located, respectively, as follows: Hose 1, Merrick; Hose 2, Riverdale volunteer company; Hose 3, Center; Hose 4, Mittineague; Hook and Ladder 1, Merrick; Hook and Ladder 2, Mittineague. The department officers are (1901) Walter L. Smith, chief and superintendent of fire alarm system; Oscar T. Roloff, Manuel M. Custer and A. C. Lewis, assistant engineers;

Clifford C. Haynes, clerk of board; Edward T. Fitch, Watson Phillips, Lewis A. Hubbard, E. C. Orcutt, Talcott A. Rogers, J. H. Lombra and B. Schladenhauffen, fire wardens.

The Water Supply.—Previous to 1893 the water supply of West Springfield, other than that obtained from private wells, was furnished by the West Springfield Aqueduct company, a private corporation originally organized in 1855, whose facilities for a general distribution of water for domestic and fire protection purposes was limited and not wholly satisfactory to the public. In June, 1892, the town voted to take possession of the works, and in July, 1893, the water board presented its first annual report. From that time the members of the board have labored earnestly and with excellent results in solving the problem of furnishing an adequate water supply to all parts of the town. In accomplishing this many obstinate points were required to be overcome, but to-day the town rejoices in an abundant supply of good wholesome water. Pumping, gravity and stand-pipe systems are employed and are operated at considerable expense, yet the desired end has been secured. The work of completion and extension is carried forward each year under careful supervision, but under existing conditions a statement showing the actual cost and value of the system is not necessary in this place. The town paid the aqueduct company about $65,000 for its plant and franchises. The board of commissioners is comprised of T. J. Sullivan, George N. Norris and C. M. Woodward.

ECCLESIASTICAL

The First Congregational Church.—In November, 1696, the inhabitants on the west side of Connecticut river, numbering thirty-two families received from the general court permission to "procure and settle a learned orthodox minister to dispense the Word of God unto those that dwell there," and for that purpose the region now included within the towns of Agawam, Holyoke and West Springfield were constituted the Second parish in Springfield. In June, 1698, "The First Church in West Springfield" was organized, and Rev. John Woodbridge was installed pastor.

Thus was established the mother church in our town, from which there have been organized in later years at least two early parishes and several churches. The first meeting house was built in 1702, and stood near the center of the park about ten rods south of the town hall. It is described as "an unique structure, 42 feet square on the ground and 92 feet high." There were three roofs, each succeeding story being smaller than the one preceding it. Until 1743 the people assembled for worship at the call of the drum, but in that year a bell was procured,

The old Church on Orthodox Hill

which having been broken two or three times and recast, was transferred to the present house of worship on the hill.

The second—the present—house of worship was erected in 1801-2, and was dedicated June 20 of the latter year. The old edifice has frequently been repaired and extensively remodeled, yet it preserves much of its original appearance; and notwithstanding its age of a full hundred years, it is a substantial and attractive structure to-day. It stands on elevated grounds and

its tall spire and clean white outline may be seen from points distant several miles in nearly every direction. Yet our forefathers in the town found themselves in a little dispute regarding the site on which the meeting house was to be built, and it was only when John Ashley came forward with a donation of 1,100 pounds for "the support of the ministry" on condition that he should be permitted to designate the building site that matter was amicably settled. An organ was first placed in the church in 1855; in 1860 the walls were frescoed, and in 1882 the entire interior was radically remodeled. At the present time the membership numbers 126 persons, but we must remember that within the vast territory where this once was the only church there are now a dozen of various denominations, while within two miles from the old edifice are two Congregational churches, both directly formed from this as the mother society.

Since 1877 the First church has not had an installed pastor, yet the pulpit has at all times been acceptably supplied. The pastors from 1698 to 1877 were as follows: John Woodbridge, June, 1698, died June, 1718; Samuel Hopkins, June 1, 1720, died October 5, 1755; Joseph Lathrop, D. D., August 25, 1756, died December 31, 1820; Wm. B. Sprague, D. D., August 25, 1819-July, 1829; Thos. E. Vermilye, LL. D., May 6, 1830-April 29, 1835; John H. Hunter, August 24, 1835-February 16, 1837; A. A. Wood, D. D., December 19, 1838-August 28, 1849; H. M. Field, D. D., January 29, 1851-November 14, 1854; T. H. Hawks, D. D., March 7, 1855-March 31, 1861; E. B. Foster, D. D., October, 1861-April, 1866; H. M. Grout, D. D., July, 1867-January, 1871; John M. Chapin, June, 1872, died October, 1872; E. N. Pomeroy, November, 1873-March, 1877. Ministers acting as pastors but not installed: H. B. Blake, October, 1877-June, 1879; Charles H. Abbott, June, 1879-April, 1883; Wm. A. Thomas, August, 1883, three years; Prof. C. Beardsley, about two years; George R. Hewitt, two years; Sidney K. B. Perkins, six years; George W. Love, February, 1900, now serving as pastor.

The Mittineague Congregational church was organized in 1850, at a time when the mother church was without a pastoral head. During the eleven years in which Rev. Mr. Wood was

pastor there were more than 200 additions to the old church membership, and a considerable part of this number were residents in the vicinity of Mittineague. This little village then was beginning to attract some attention and the establishment of a new church there was deemed advisable. In 1852 the meeting house of the Methodists was removed from its original site to Mittineague and became the church home of the new Congregational society. The building was destroyed by fire February 22, 1879, and was very soon afterward replaced with the present

Town Hall and Park Congregational Church

edifice. During this period of its history the pastors of the church were Revs. Henry Powers, Perkins K. Clark, H. M. Holden and John E. Hurlbut. From the time of its organization in 1850 the church has steadily increased in strength and influence, and now has the largest membership of any Congregational church in the town, the present number being 227. The pastor is Rev. Alfred M. Spangler; clerk of church, Eugene H. Shepherd; superintendent of Sunday school, F. O. Scott; Sunday school membership, 185.

The Park Street Congregational church was organized in 1871, when, at the close of the pastorate of Rev. Henry M. Grout in the mother church, seventy-two members withdrew and established the third Congregational society in the town. The withdrawing members were largely persons of influence and means, and by acquisition of other members the whole body caused to be erected the large church edifice on Park street, one of the most substantial and imposing public buildings in the town. It was built in 1872, and cost nearly $40,000. This church has a total membership of 171 persons, and is under the pastoral care of Rev. William H. Webb; clerk of church, Ethan Brooks; superintendent of Sunday school, Harry L. Brown; Sunday school membership, 160.

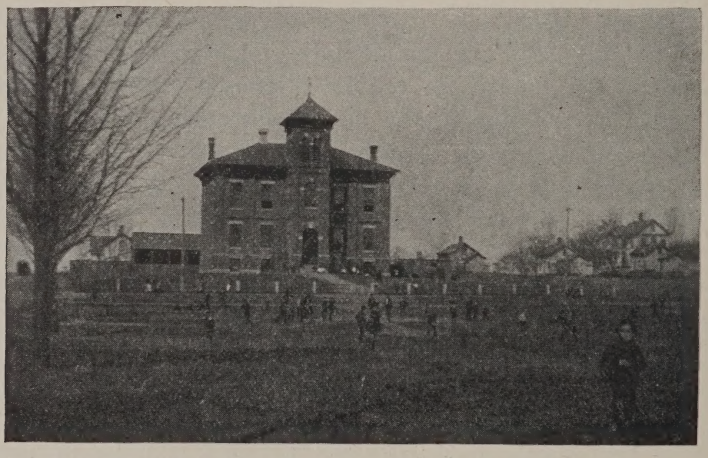
The Church of the Immaculate Conception in West Springfield was the outgrowth of the missionary labors of Father Gallagher, who began saying mass in the town as early as 1861, and the Sunday school work inaugurated and carried on by John O'Brien, then an employee of one of the paper mills but now Rev. Father O'Brien. Mr. Melcher, then superintendent in the mill, encouraged the work, and on a lot donated for that purpose the Immaculate Conception church was built during the summer of 1878. It was dedicated November 3 of the same year. West Springfield was made a parish in 1877, and Father Phelan was appointed resident pastor. He was succeeded by Father O'Keefe and the latter by Father Moyer.

St. Thomas' church at Mittineague was built in 1869 by Father Healy, pastor of St. Michael's in Springfield, and for many years was under the care of Father O'Keefe and his assistants. The property here has been materially increased in value and the influence and work of the church also has been greatly extended. St. Thomas' is now under the charge of Rev. Father Griffin.

The First Methodist Episcopal church of West Springfield, located in Merrick, was organized May 14, 1876, but Methodism in the town dates back more than three-quarters of a century, and regular services of the church have been held here for more than sixty years. A house of worship was built on Elm street in 1843, and was removed to Mittineague in 1852 and became the

home of the Second Congregational society. In 1872 Trinity M. E. church of Springfield planted a new mission on the west side of the river and held services in the school house and also in Centennial hall until the erection of the new house of worship on Main street in 1878. Rev. W. E. Knox was the first pastor in charge. This church now numbers 105 members, and is under the pastoral care of Rev. F. M. Estes.

The Mittineague M. E. church is of more recent organization and the result of the rapid outspreading of Methodist influence in the town. The church has a membership of 100 persons, and is under the care of Rev. H. G. Buckingham, pastor.



The school building—Mittineague

The West Springfield Baptist church, an offshoot from the State Street Baptist church in Springfield, was organized as a mission Bible school in 1870, and as a church October 10, 1876. The chapel, now the church edifice, was erected in 1872. The first pastor was Rev. O. D. Thomas. The only Baptist church in the town, naturally its membership is quite strong while the attendance at services is in all respects gratifying. During the period of its history seven pastors have served this church. Rev. Hugh J. Jenner, the last pastor, was called in May, 1895, and severed his connection with the society in October, 1901.

Cemeteries.—The original burying ground west of the river antedates the organization of the town, and also the parish which preceded it, by many years, and to-day our best informed citizens have no more than traditional knowledge of its laying out for burial purposes. It was in use during the early years of the eighteenth century, but after the opening of the next century no interments were made there. It is located on what now is Church street, but evidences of its existence are fast passing away.

The old Town Hall cemetery is said to have been laid out about 1780, and that Solomon Lathrop was the first person buried there (1787). This burial tract is located between the town hall and the Park street church.

The Meeting House Hill cemetery, a part of the property of the First church parish, once comprised a part of the Benjamin Stebbins farm, and was laid out for burial purposes previous to the erection of the meeting house in 1800. This is the recognized cemetery of the town at the present time, and within its limits is located the handsome monument erected in memory of soldiers of the 10th Mass. regiment of infantry.

CHAPTER VI

THE TOWN OF GRANVILLE

In the southwest part of Hampden county, bordering on the state of Connecticut and about twelve miles west of the river of the same name, is located the town of Granville, one of the most independent and interesting civil divisions of Hampden county, and one which has furnished to professional, public and business life in this and other states as great a proportion of its honored sons as any jurisdiction in the great Connecticut valley. Tradition and record inform us that the entire region hereabouts was once owned and in possession of an Indian chieftain, named Toto, who was on terms of friendship with the whites and was

willing to part with his lands for the mere compensation of a gun and sixteen gaudy brass buttons.

So far as the chroniclers of Indian history give us any light on the subject, the original Toto was a friendly red man who dwelt in the vicinity of Windsor, in Connecticut, where during the period of King Philip's war he was a servant in the family of one of the white settlers; that just before the burning of Springfield in 1675, Toto imformed his master that King Philip's warriors were concealed within the Indian fort, which stood on Pecowsic brook, and that they were awaiting a favorable opportunity to attack, plunder and burn the town, which they did on the next day. The subsequent history of Toto is unknown to us, and it may be that he possessed himself of this remote region of country, became its recognized owner, and that he parted with his title for the consideration mentioned. The present writer has no theory on this subject, yet it seems doubtful whether the friendly Toto of 1675 could have occupied the territory of Granville half a century later and then sold his hill domain to the adventurous white man. Still, Granville has for more than a century been noted for the remarkable longevity of its inhabitants, and one authority states that between 1760 and 1810 one person in every thirty attained the age of ninety years.

The person to whom Toto sold his possessions was James Cornish, who soon disposed of a certain share of his estate to William Fuller, and both in turn, sold in 1713 to Atherton Mather, the latter the grantor party to the Bedford company of proprietors, the founders of the plantation of Bedford, the actual developers of the land. This purchase was made in 1715, and was confirmed by the general court in 1739. However, feeling secure under their title, the proprietary offered their lands for sale, and in 1736 settlement was begun by Samuel Bancroft, who in that year moved from Springfield with his family and was the pioneer of the town. Bancroft himself had only one son, Jonathan, but before the close of an hundred years of the town's history the descendants of Samuel in the town numbered nearly one hundred persons. Jonathan's sons were Lemuel, Ethan and Samuel, from whom have come nearly all the later Bancrofts in Granville history.

The proprietors evidently acted promptly in disposing of their lands, and sold to settlers and speculators in tracts varying in size, according to their means. And they appeared to have interested a considerable number of inhabitants of Connecticut, for very soon after pioneer Bancroft located here there came a goodly colony from Durham and settled on the plantation lands. In a letter written by Rev. Timothy Cooley, of honored memory, to Rev. W. C. Fowler we find a list of the members of the Durham colony, viz.: Ezra, Ebenezer and Amos Baldwin; John, John, jun., Jacob, Nathaniel and David Bates; Noah, Dan, Phineas and Timothy Robinson; David, Aaron and Ebenezer Curtis; Samuel, Aaron and Enoch Coe; John Seward (doubtful), Stephen Hitchcock, Isaac Bartlett, David Parsons, Roswell Graves and Benjamin Barnes.

Among the descendants of these settlers were several men who in later years achieved prominence in professional and public life. The list is an honorable one and is well worthy of reproduction in this place. Elijah Bates, who for many years ranked with the foremost men of the county, was the son of Nathaniel Bates. William Gelston Bates, the noted lawyer and the historian of the Hampden bar, was the son of Elijah and the grandson of Nathaniel Bates. Isaac Chapman Bates, Hampden county's only representative who ever attained to a seat in the senate of the United States, was a son of Col. Jacob Bates. Charles F. Bates, an attorney at law, was a son of Nathaniel Bates. Edward B. Gillett, for several years district attorney for the western district, and one of the ablest lawyers of Massachusetts in his time, was a grandson of Col. Jacob Bates; and Frederick Gillett, representative in congress at this time, is the son of the late Edward B. Gillett. David B. Curtis died in the service during the war of 1812-15. Rev. John Seward was a son of settler John Seward. Rev. Harry Coe was a grandson of Samuel Coe. Rev. David L. Coe also was a grandson of Samuel Coe. Gurdon S. Stebbins was a grandson of John Bates. Rev. Truman Baldwin was a son, and Rev. Benson Baldwin was a grandson of Amos Baldwin. Rev. Chas. F. Robinson died at St. Charles, at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi

rivers. Anson V. Parsons, former judge of the courts in Pennsylvania, was a grandson of David Parsons.

Gathering information from various reliable sources, it is learned that among the first settlers in Granville, in addition to those of the Durham colony, there may also be mentioned Daniel Cooley, William Cooley (father of Rev. Timothy M. Cooley), Jonathan Rose, Samuel Gillett, Thomas Spelman, John Root, Ephraim Manson, Phineas Pratt and Thomas Brown. A little later there came Jabez Dunham, Peter Gibbons, Jonathan Church and Asa Seymour, each of whom was closely identified with the early history of the town, and many of whose descendants are still here. Jonathan Rose attained the remarkable age of 103 years, and then perished in the flames of his burning buildings. His three sons were Sharon, Daniel and Timothy, the latter an old revolutionary patriot, and subsequently the founder of the colony of Granville, in Ohio, an offshoot from the mother town Granville in Massachusetts. Still other early settlers whose names should be mentioned in these annals were Levi Parsons, David Clark, Ezra Marvin, Josiah Hatch, Luke Hitchcock, Oliver Phelps, Josiah Harvey, Lieut. Samuel Bancroft (of revolutionary fame), Nathan Barlow, John Hamilton, Isaac Chapman, Enos Seaward, John Bartlett and others.

Col. Jacob Bates was a lieutenant in the army during the revolution and later acquired the title of colonel. He served under Gen. Washington and was of the brave party that crossed the Delaware in the attack on Princeton. Col. Timothy Robinson was a justice of the peace, representative in the general court, deacon in the church, and for many years a "father of the town." In the time of Shays' rebellion he and a company of the "court party" while on their way to Springfield were met by a party of the mob, and, after a skirmish near the "great rock" in Granville, were made prisoners. The next day was Sunday and in prison the good deacon talked and prayed with his captors with such earnestness that they were converted, and on the following Monday all marched together to Springfield. Oliver Phelps, an early settler here, was a man of strong character and excellent business qualities. He was the principal

promoter of the historic Phelps and Gorham proprietary that purchased from Massachusetts the pre-emption right of all that region of New York state which lay west of Seneca lake, this vast tract having fallen to this commonwealth as a result of the historic Hartford convention of 1786.

According to the historical sermon delivered by Rev. Dr. Cooley on the occasion of the Granville jubilee in 1845, the first house in the middle parish (long known as Middle Granville) was built by David Rose, who appears to have been the pioneer of that locality. The other early settlers there were John Bates, David Clark, and the Robinson, the Parsons, the Curtis, the Coe and the Baldwin families. In the west parish (now Tolland) the first settlers were James Barlow, Samuel Hubbard, Moses Goff, Titus Fowler, David Fowler, Robert Hamilton, Thomas Hamilton and James Hamilton.

The proprietors of the Bedford plantation lived chiefly in Boston and that vicinity, and of their entire number Samuel Gillett alone became an actual settler on the lands. The plantation originally was called Bedford, but as a town of that name then existed in the state a change was made as soon as the new territory was recognized by the general court. Nearly all the settlers were of English parentage, some of them direct descendants of the noted Plymouth colony; but of whatever nationality or creed, they were a hardy people, well prepared to face and overcome the hardships of pioneer life in a new region. Having provided a shelter for their families and prepared the land for crops, their first care was for the establishment of a church and then of a school for the education of their youth. Indeed, this same thoughtful consideration seems to have characterized all later generations of inhabitants in Granville, as the town long has been noted for the attainments and high character of the men it has sent into professional and public life. Other towns having greater population, more ample educational and commercial facilities, perhaps may furnish a longer list, but among them all, in proportion to population and natural advantages, Granville holds a conspicuous position for the moral and mental worth of its native sons.

A contemporary writer has said: "Mother Granville, sterile and barren as she is, is not without merits. The good old lady has sent a name abroad, and she has a fair claim to a seat, although a low and humble one, in the temple of fame. She has produced a prolific progeny, and I may say, an honorable and a patriotic one; none more so. They may justly be said to possess the spirit of enterprise as well as the blood of their fathers. The sons of Granville are scattered abroad, and are found in every station and every situation in life. Many of them are in the learned professions, adorning the pulpit, the bar, and the

Granville Corners—Baptist Church

bench of justice. No matter how exalted the station, they are adequate to its dignity. They are neither idle nor dull. Their views are not bounded by plain nor distance. They are on the shores of the Atlantic and the Pacific."

Civil History. In 1754 the plantation of Bedford had acquired a considerable population, and its great extent of territory then was comparatively well settled. Previous to this time there was no township organization and such authority as was necessary in the region was exercised by the proprietors' agents

and the civil officers of Hampshire county. Soon after 1750 the inhabitants began discussing measures for a separate organization, and on January 25, 1754, the general court entertained an application and granted the district a limited incorporation—limited only in that the district was not given a representative in the legislature. Even this restriction was set aside August 23, 1775, and thereafter Granville became a town with full corporate powers. The territory then included all that is now Granville and Tolland, the latter having been set off in 1810.

When Granville was established as a district a full board of town officers, except representative, was chosen and from that time its civil record has been continuous. Unfortunately, however, the town records from 1830 to 1859 have not been carefully preserved, hence much that is of interest in the civil history of the town during that period is lost. From such records as are in existence the following list of selectmen and town clerks has been taken:

Selectmen: 1754, Phineas Pratt, Samuel Bancroft, David Rose; 1755, Phineas Pratt, Samuel Bancroft, John Spelman; 1756, Samuel Church, Samuel Bancroft, John Spelman; 1757, Phineas Pratt, Samuel Bancroft, John Spelman; 1758, Luke Hitchcock, Samuel Bancroft, John Spelman; 1759-60, Luke Hitchcock, Phineas Pratt, John Hitchcock; 1761, Timothy Robinson, Luke Hitchcock, Eliakim Stow; 1762-64, Timothy Robinson, Luke Hitchcock, John Rose; 1765, Timothy Robinson, Luke Hitchcock, Phineas Pratt; 1766, Timothy Robinson, Joseph Miller, Phineas Pratt; 1767, Timothy Robinson, Luke Hitchcock, Phineas Pratt; 1768, Justis Rose, Luke Hitchcock, Phineas Pratt; 1769, Benjamin Old, Stephen Hitchcock, Phineas Pratt; 1770-72, Timothy Robinson, Luke Hitchcock, Nathan Barlow; 1773-76, Timothy Robinson, Luke Hitchcock, Samuel Bancroft; 1777, William Cooley, Timothy Robinson, Titus Fowler, Nathan Barlow, Samuel Coe; 1778, Timothy Robinson, William Cooley, Titus Fowler, Joel Bancroft, Samuel Thrall; 1779, Timothy Robinson, Oliver Phelps, Titus Fowler, William Cooley, Dan Robinson; 1780, Timothy Robinson, Oliver Phelps, Titus Fowler, Wm. Cooley, Josiah Harvey; 1781, Timothy Robinson, Oliver

Phelps, Titus Fowler, Richard Dickinson, Josiah Harvey; 1782, Timothy Robinson, Oliver Phelps, Titus Fowler, Richard Dickinson, David Parsons; 1783, Timothy Robinson, Oliver Phelps, Titus Fowler, William Cooley, Jacob Bates; 1784, Timothy Robinson, Oliver Phelps, Titus Fowler, Ezra Marvin, Jacob Bates; 1785, Timothy Robinson, Oliver Phelps, Titus Fowler, Clark Cooley, Jacob Bates; 1786-87, Timothy Robinson, Oliver Phelps, Thomas Hamilton, Clark Cooley, Jacob Bates; 1788-90, Dr. Josiah Harvey, James Hamilton, Lemuel Bancroft, Clark Cooley, Amos Baldwin; 1791-93, Dr. Josiah Harvey, Timothy Robinson, Titus Fowler, Clark Cooley, Ezra Marvin; 1794, no record; 1795, Dr. Josiah Harvey, Timothy Robinson, Abraham Granger, Clark Cooley, Ezra Marvin; 1796, Dr. Josiah Harvey, Enoch Bancroft, Abraham Granger, David Curtis, Stephen Spelman; 1797, Dr. Josiah Harvey, Jacob Bates, Abraham Granger, Titus Fowler, Ezra Marvin; 1798, Ezra Marvin, David Robinson, Titus Fowler, Jacob Bates, William Cooley; 1799, Ezra Marvin, Jacob Bates, Titus Fowler, William Cooley, David Curtis; 1800, Israel Parsons, David Robinson, Thomas Hamilton, Asa Seymour, Seth Parsons; 1801, Israel Parsons, David Robinson, Thomas Hamilton, Seth Parsons, Perez Marshall, jr.; 1802, Asa Seymour, David Curtis, Abraham Granger, Timothy Rose, John Phelps; 1803, Asa Seymour, Jacob Bates, Titus Fowler, Timothy Rose, Abraham Granger; 1804, Israel Parsons, David Curtis, Titus Fowler, John Phelps, James Coe; 1805, Israel Parsons, John Phelps, Abraham Granger; 1806, Ezra Marvin, Jacob Bates, Abraham Granger; 1807, Israel Parsons, Joel Robinson, Abraham Granger; 1808, Amos Root, Joel Robinson, Abraham Granger; 1809, Israel Parsons, John Phelps, Wm. Twining, 2d.; 1810, Asa Seymour, David Curtis, Wm. Twining, James Coe, Joel Parsons; 1811, Asa Seymour, Joel Parsons, James Barlow; 1812, Asa Seymour, Hezekiah Robinson, Lyman Baldwin; 1813, Israel Parsons, Hezekiah Robinson, Elihu Stow; 1814, James Barlow, Hezekiah Robinson, Perry Babcock; 1815, James Barlow, Perry Babcock, Joel Root, Lyman Baldwin, Stephen Spelman; 1816, Lyman Baldwin, Joel Root, Isaac Miller, James Cooley, John Robinson; 1817, Israel Parsons, Joel Root, John

Selden, Lyman Baldwin, Dudley Humphrey; 1818, Patrick Boies, Joel Root, Hezekiah Robinson, E. Barlow, Jr., Nathan Parsons; 1819, John Selden, Hezekiah Robinson, James Barlow; 1820, Francis Stebbins, James Barlow, Hezekiah Robinson; 1821, Francis Stebbins, James Barlow, Jonathan B. Bancroft; 1822, Francis Stebbins, Bela Bancroft, Denison Parsons; 1823, James Barlow, Denison Parsons, William Marvin; 1824, Denison Parsons, William Marvin, Benjamin Barnes, Jr.; 1825, Denison Parsons, Joel Root, Stephen Spelman; 1826, Hezekiah Robinson, Joel Root, Nathan Parsons; 1827, Stephen Spelman, Hezekiah Robinson, James Barlow; 1828, Hezekiah Robinson, James Barlow, Nathan Parsons; 1829, James Cooley, Noah Cooley, Jonathan B. Bancroft; 1830, Noah Cooley, Elijah Seymour, Vincent Holcomb; 1831-1858, records missing; 1859, O. Z. Hugens, Jas. H. Andrews, James P. Cooley; 1860, D. M. Wheeler, O. Z. Hugens, Jas. H. Andrews; 1861, Edmund Barlow, D. M. Wheeler, Edward Holcomb; 1862, John D. Bifley, Wm. Wells, James W. Spelman; 1863, Jas. W. Spelman, R. H. Barlow, Daniel H. Drake; 1864, D. M. Wheeler, Franklin Robinson, D. H. Drake; 1865, R. H. Barlow, Silas Noble, James W. Spelman; 1866, W. W. Baron, D. H. Drake, L. B. Marks; 1867, James W. Spelman, Edwin Seymour, James H. Andrews; 1868, James W. Johnson, Edwin Seymour, Nelson Goddard; 1869, E. H. Seymour, James O. Rose, James W. Johnson; 1870, E. H. Seymour, S. O. Brocker, Francis Clark; 1871, Rufus Smith, James H. Seymour, William Clark; 1872, Rufus Smith, Wm. C. Clark, E. L. Brown; 1873, Wm. C. Clark, E. H. Seymour, James W. Johnson; 1874, Wm. C. Clark, Orville Carpenter, G. W. Territt; 1875, Orville Carpenter, M. J. Rose, Rufus Smith; 1876, Orville Carpenter, M. J. Rose, L. B. Marks; 1877-78, Miles J. Rose, E. L. Brown, William E. Barnes; 1879-80, J. C. Carpenter, E. L. Brown, William E. Barnes; 1881, J. C. Carpenter, Milo Miller, Wm. E. Barnes; 1882, J. C. Carpenter, James H. Seymour, M. C. Pender; 1883, J. C. Carpenter, M. C. Pender, D. A. Clark; 1884-85, J. C. Carpenter, M. C. Pender, M. V. Stow; 1886-88, J. C. Carpenter, M. C. Pender, E. F. Roberts; 1889-90, Samuel B. Root, Wm. E. Barnes, E. F. Roberts; 1891, E. H. Seymour, W. E. Barnes, W. H. Spelman;

1892, E. H. Seymour, J. C. Carpenter, Chas. D. Treat; 1893-94, E. H. Seymour, W. E. Barnes, M. J. Rose; 1895, E. H. Seymour, W. E. Barnes, C. W. Ives; 1896, E. H. Seymour, E. P. Sullivan, C. W. Ives; 1897-98, E. H. Seymour, E. P. Sullivan, Joseph Welch; 1899, E. H. Seymour, C. L. Stow, Joseph Welch; 1900, E. P. Sullivan, C. L. Stow, Joseph Welch; 1901, L. F. Henry, W. S. Pomeroy, Joseph Welch.

Town Clerks: Jonathan Church, 1754; Joseph Clark, 1755-56; Timothy Robinson, 1757-76; Joel Bancroft, 1777; Oliver Phelps, 1778-86; David Robinson, 1787-96; John Phelps, 1797-99; Israel Parsons, 1800-01; John Phelps, 1802-3; Israel Parsons, 1803; John Phelps, 1804-7; Thaddeus Squier, 1808-9; John Phelps, 1810-11; James Cooley, 1811; John Phelps, 1812-13; Joel Parsons, 1814; James Cooley, 1815; Patrick Boies, 1816; James Cooley, 1817; Patrick Boies, 1818; James Cooley, 1819; Patrick Boies, 1820; James Cooley, 1821; Patrick Boies, 1822; James Cooley, 1823; Vincent Holcomb, 1824; James Cooley, 1825; Vincent Holcomb, 1826; James Cooley, 1827; Patrick Boies, 1828; Elijah Seymour, 1829; Patrick Boies, 1830; no record from 1830 to 1859; Chapin F. Brown, 1859; W. L. Boies, 1860; Ralph S. Brown, 1861; Lyman W. Shepard, 1862; Ralph S. Brown, 1863; Lyman W. Shepard, 1864; Ralph S. Brown, 1865; Lyman W. Shepard, 1866; J. M. Gibbons, 1867-71; Ralph S. Brown, 1872-74; J. M. Gibbons, 1875; Ralph S. Brown, 1876-77; J. M. Gibbons, 1878-89; J. Sweet, 1890; E. E. Smith, 1891-1900; F. N. Gibbons, 1901.

Town Officers, 1901: Joseph Welch (chm.), Lawrence F. Henry, William S. Pomeroy, selectmen, assessors, overseers of the poor, and board of health; Fred N. Gibbons, town clerk and treasurer; Charles A. Clark, Ralph G. Hires, auditors; Charles H. Treat, collector; Roswell O. Rowley, Chas. A. Sheets, constables; Clinton L. Stow, superintendent of streets; Miles J. Rose, J. W. Phelon, E. H. Seymour, Joseph Welch, justices of the peace; Silas B. Root (chm.), Ralph B. Cooley, Wm. S. Pomeroy, trustees of Granville public library; B. F. Hurlburt, librarian.

At the time of the colonial census in 1776, hardly more than two score years after the first settlements were made in this part

of old Hampshire county, it was found that the whole number of inhabitants on the plantation was 1,126, the district then standing fifth in population among the towns comprising the county. During the next fifteen years the population increased rapidly, and in 1790 Granville contained four hundred more inhabitants than Springfield, although its territory was less in extent. The maximum population in this town was reached in 1800, the number of inhabitants then being a little more than 2,300. After Tolland was taken off the mother town retained its comparative numerical strength until about 1830, since which time the tide of settlement has gradually turned toward the commercial centers, and to-day Granville has 500 less population than in 1810, although during that time there has not been any reduction in its area. However, without an attempt to explain the reasons for this decrease, let us have recourse to the census reports and discover the fluctuations in population of the town since the colonial census of 1776, viz.: In 1776 the number of inhabitants was 1,126; 1790, 1,979; 1800, 2,309; 1810, 1,504; 1820, 1,643; 1830, 1,649; 1840, 1,414; 1850, 1,305; 1860, 1,385; 1865, 1,367; 1870, 1,293; 1875, 1,240; 1880, 1,205; 1885, 1,193; 1890, 1,061; 1895, 1,005; 1900, 1,050.

From the period of its earliest settlement Granville has had an interesting history. As an early settled region its inhabitants were almost wholly from the eastern localities of the province of Massachusetts Bay and the large colonies of Connecticut, hence they were accustomed to the hardships incident to pioneer life and also prepared to withstand the depredations of the unfriendly Indians who frequently infested the region. Fortunately, however, we have not to record any savage attacks upon the settlers in this peaceful locality, although during the closing years of the French wars the frontier was constantly harrassed by marauding bands of warriors who plundered and burned wherever chance presented an opportunity. But within a very few years after the echoes of the last French and English war had died away the town was thrown into a state of excitement on account of the alarming difficulties between the mother country and her American colonies.

In the struggle for independence Granville played an active part in the advocacy of American freedom and in sending the strongest element of its population to bear arms in that great cause. The mounted courier who rode into Springfield with the news of the attack on Lexington, also warned the minutemen of Granville, and on the 29th of April, 1775, Capt. Lebbeus Ball's company marched from the town for Boston. This was a notable band of strong young men who had previously organized themselves into a militia company for just such an emergency. The whole town, too, was truly loyal, and by way of encouragement voted a small bounty to each man who would enlist for service against the British. The call to arms met with ready response, and throughout the long period of the war Granville's record for patriotism was as honorable as that of any town in the entire region. Having recourse to an old record, a roster of Capt. Ball's company of minutemen has been found, and may be regarded as reasonably accurate. A few of the men returned to their homes after a few days' service, but the majority were regularly enlisted and served as occasion required, some in the provincial regiments and others in the continental army.

Capt. Ball's company comprised these men: Lebbeus Ball, captain; Lemuel Bancroft, first lieutenant; Jesse Munson, second lieutenant; John Stiles, Benj. Stow, Elijah Stiles, Joel Bancroft, sergeants; Ebenezer Smith, Jacob Bates, John Cornwell, Jonathan Forbes, corporals; Merrick Hitchcock, fifer; John Wright, Asher Granger, Ebenezer Curtis, Linus Bates, Lemuel Haynes, David Rose, Reuben Hickox, Ebenezer Gould, Elijah Rose, Ebenezer Barlow, Gad Rose, Peter Gibbons, Jesse Miller, Amos Clark, Albert Black, Russell Rose, Fenner Foster, Daniel Rose, Seth Granger, Israel Coe, Daniel Cooley, John Bancroft, George Hubbard, Abner Barlow, Eber Spelman, Richard Brown, Ephraim Munson, Jonathan Rose, Stephen Wright, Jeremiah Griswold, Abner Rose, privates.

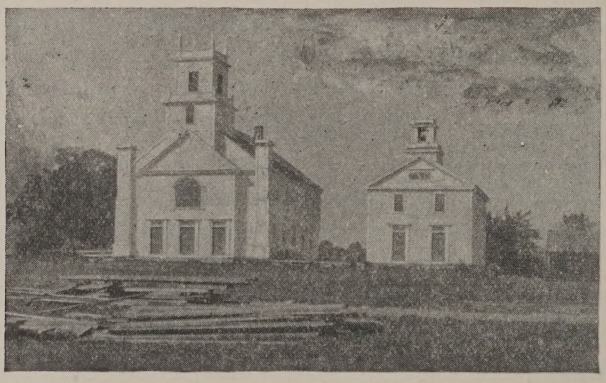
Mr. Holland's history of Western Massachusetts says that Capt. Ball's company comprised 60 men, nearly all of whom were residents of the town. In 1776 a delegate was sent to the Northampton convention, and in the same year a second company

from the town, of 73 men, formed a part of the 5th regiment of state troops commanded by Col. Moseley of Westfield. The officers of this company were Wm. Cooley, captain; Edmund Barlow, first lieutenant; Samuel Bancroft, Jr., second lieutenant; Richard Dickinson, Joel Strong, Samuel Williams, sergeants; Joel Bancroft, clerk; Samuel Stiles, drummer; Timothy Spelman, fifer; John Cooley, Thomas Gillett, James Coe, corporals. One record says that fourteen Granville men laid down their lives in the service during the war, and mentions Isaac Chapman, who fell at Ticonderoga; Deacon Luke Hitchcock, who died en route home and was buried in Springfield; Enos Howe and John Bartlett. In the old cemetery in West Granville there are buried these old revolutionary patriots: Linus Bates, Jonathan Cornwell, Enoch Coe, Seth Coe, Jacob Baldwin, Titus Hubbard, Ezra Baldwin, Israel Canfield, David Bates, Col. Timothy Robinson, Col. Seth Parsons, Capt. Dan Robinson, Capt. Benj. Barnes, Lieut. John Tibballs, Capt. Aaron Coe, Alexander Stewart, Jesse Hall, Lemuel Haynes, Amos Baldwin, Samuel Baldwin.

Many present residents in Granville and hundreds of others who have gone therefrom to other localities can trace their ancestry to some of these old heroes of the revolution. Following the period of the war the townspeople returned to the peaceful arts of agriculture and trade, and while the disturbed conditions which arose through the rebellious action of Shays' insurgent horde had its effect upon the town, we are not aware that any Granville citizens took sides with the riotous element, but they did lend assistance to suppress it. In the troublous period just preceding the war of 1812-15 the town showed decided leanings toward federalism, and sent a delegate (David Curtis) to the "peace" convention at Northampton. From that time to the war of 1861-5 no untoward event marred the progress of local affairs and peace and prosperity prevailed on every hand. During the war last mentioned this town furnished about 125 men for the service, nearly all of whom were attached to the infantry and artillery regiments to which the county contributed.

One of the most notable events in the history of the town was the semi-centennial festival—the Granville jubilee—which

was celebrated August 27, 1845, in commemoration of the fiftieth year of the pastorate of Rev. Timothy M. Cooley of the First Church of Christ in Granville. The exercises of the occasion were continued two days, and comprised addresses, reading of especially written poems, and a powerful historical sermon by the venerable Dr. Cooley himself. Strictly, the celebration was an affair of the church, yet it resolved itself into a general jubilee gathering in which all the townspeople took an earnest part, while hundreds came from other localities. When the services were ended the assemblage adjourned to meet again half a century later, and accordingly, on August 28, 1895, the church and



The church on Granville Hill

people enjoyed another jubilee festival, although few indeed of the participants in the first event were then present.

The foregoing brief allusion to the jubilee ceremonies naturally suggests a like reference to the history of the church in Granville, which in fact antedates the creation of the town and reaches back to the days of the Bedford plantation. "The First Church of Christ" in Granville was formed in 1744, as a result of the preaching of Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards, which was the means of a revival known as the "Great Awakening." The first pastor, Rev. Moses Tuttle, was ordained and settled in 1747, and the erection of the first church edifice was largely due to his efforts, the structure standing on the next hill

west of the present site. The edifice now in use by the society was built in 1802, and was thoroughly repaired in 1890. Mr. Tuttle was succeeded in the pastorate in 1756 by Rev. Jedediah Smith, who retired in 1776. Dr. Cooley became pastor in 1795 and ministered to the spiritual wants of the inhabitants until 1854, a period of fifty-nine years. For more than 150 years the church has been an institution for good in the history of the town, and during all that time its record has been continuous. On its membership rolls is found the names of hundreds of persons who were well known in local annals, but at the present day the number of members does not exceed 75. The pastor at this time is Rev. Gilbert A. Curtis.

A second Congregational society in Granville was formed in the middle parish in 1781, and took the name of West Granville church upon the separation of Tolland from the mother town. Indeed the church societies in what now is West Granville also in Tolland were offshoots from the parent society to which reference has been made. In 1786 the West parish settled its first pastor, Rev. Aaron Booge, and in 1788 a meeting house was erected. The society has since maintained a healthful existence, although it has not been self-supporting at all times.

The Baptist church in Granville, the seat of the society being at Granville Corners, was organized by dissentients from the mother Congregational society, and dates its history from 1791. Previous to that year the constituent members were known as "Separatists." A house of worship was erected in 1800 and the society has always enjoyed a continuous existence and comparatively healthful condition in respect to numerical strength. The church is now under the pastoral care of Rev. Benj. F. Hurlburt.

A Universalist society was formed at Granville Corners in 1863, and a church edifice was built the same year. Numerically the society never has been strong and during the last quarter of a century only occasional meetings have been held.

In matters pertaining to the educational welfare of its youth, this town has long held an enviable reputation among the civil divisions of the country; but owing to the absence of early

records, little is known concerning the earliest schools, and only tradition, with the positive knowledge that the town has reared, educated and sent out into professional and public life many strong men, is the basis of the inference that the old-time schools of Granville must have been of high character to produce such results. The old academic school at West Granville was a known factor in this work for many years, but long ago that once famous institution gave way to the improved free school system inaugurated under the state legislative enactments.

According to the present disposition of school interests the town is divided into eight districts, and a good school is maintained in each. There are now in the town about 220 children between the ages of five and fifteen years, for whose instruction eight teachers are annually employed. The town raises by annual tax approximately $2,800, and shares in the public school fund about $550. The amount annually expended for school purposes is about $3,550. The school committee at this time comprises Alice M. Carpenter (chm.), Joseph Welch and Benj. F. Hurlburt.

During the period of its history there have been established within the limits of the town several small villages and hamlets, for the purposes of trade, manufacture and public assemblages. They are known as Granville Corners, East Granville and West Granville. Originally Tolland was called West Granville, while the present hamlet, so-called, was designated the Middle parish.

West Granville in local history is a place of little importance, having no considerable industries and only one store. It is, however, a convenient trading center, and Joseph Welch, general merchant, supplies the entire locality with all which the townsmen must needs purchase. He also is the postmaster, one of the selectmen, and withal one of the prominent men of the west part of the town. Here, too, is the West Granville Congregational church, the remnant of the Dickinson library (kept in the meeting house gallery), the old academy building (now used by the women's sewing circle and for other public purposes), and about twenty dwellings. The district school stands on a hill just outside the hamlet proper.

Granville, the oldest of the three villages of the town, and sometimes called East Granville, the seat of town business, is a hamlet of perhaps 200 inhabitants. Its institutions comprise the town hall, the church, the district school and the postoffice. It has mercantile interests and a few shops of minor consequence, and its inhabitants are thrifty and progressive.

Granville Corners is the business hamlet of the town and for many years has enjoyed a certain prominence in the industry founded away back in 1854 by Silas Noble and James P. Cooley,

Granville Corners—Universalist Church

manufacturers of drums, novelties and specialties; and the old firm name still stands and is exceedingly well known in commercial circles.

Inasmuch as the villages of Granville are without defined boundaries, in speaking of present business interests it is hardly necessary to give the precise location of each of them; but summarizing this element of the town's history these interests may be noted about as follows: George L. Oysler, E. M. Pomeroy and Joseph Welch are the town's auctioneers; Geo. L. Oysler and

C. A. Barnes are the blacksmiths; Charles Roberts, of the Center, the boot and shoemaker; J. M. Gibbons and Wm. S. Pomeroy, merchants at the Center, and Joseph Welch in the West village; H. B. Dickinson, proprietor of grist mill, one of the few remaining in the county; Columbus Wilcox, proprietor Granville house; E. B. Holcomb, machinist; Herbert G. Rockwell, physician and surgeon; B. F. Gibbons, postmaster at Granville; C. A. Clark & Co., printers; Charles B. Thompson, provision dealer; N. M. Frisbie and C. W. Ives, proprietors of saw mills, both in West Granville; Holcomb Bros., manufacturers of sewing machine supplies; M. V. Stow, proprietor of shingle mill; Noble & Cooley, toy and novelty manufacturers; J. M. Gibbons, undertaker; M. V. Stowe, proprietor of shingle mill.

Before closing this chapter it is proper to furnish the names of Granville's representatives to the general court previous to the creation of Hampden county; the representatives after 1812 will be found in an earlier chapter. The succession follows: 1775, Timothy Robinson, Nathan Barlow; 1776, none; 1777, Timothy Robinson, Nathan Barlow; 1778, none; 1779, Oliver Phelps, Timothy Robinson; 1780, Oliver Phelps, Josiah Harvey; 1781, Timothy Robinson; 1782, none; 1783, Timothy Robinson; 1784, none; 1785, Timothy Robinson; 1786, William Cooley; 1787, Timothy Robinson, Titus Fowler; 1788, Samuel Thrall, John Hamilton; 1789, Clark Cooley; 1790, Timothy Robinson, James Hamilton; 1791, Thomas Burbank, James Hamilton; 1792-3, Timothy Robinson; 1794, David Robinson, Titus Fowler; 1795, Enoch Bancroft, David Robinson; 1796, none; 1797, David Robinson, Ezra Marvin; 1798, Ezra Marvin, Jacob Bates; 1799, John Phelps, James Hamilton; 1800, Israel Parsons, David Robinson; 1801, Israel Parsons, Thomas Hamilton; 1802, Israel Parsons, John Phelps; 1803, Israel Parsons, Titus Fowler; 1804-05, Israel Parsons, John Phelps; 1806, Abraham Granger; 1807, Enoch Bancroft, Abraham Granger; 1808-09, Israel Parsons, John Phelps; 1810, Israel Parsons, William Twining; 1811, none; 1812, Asa Seymour, John Phelps.

A perusal of the pages of this chapter will disclose the fact that Granville not only has made an interesting history, but has

furnished some of the best men of the county who have been called into public station during the last hundred years. Glancing back over the last half century of our town's history the names of a few men suggest themselves and are worthy of passing mention; such men as the late Rev. Timothy M. Cooley, Reuben Noble, Captain Joseph Parsons, Marshall V. Stow, George W. Terrill, Carlos Gibbons, Emery Barnes, William Bacon, Timothy Clark, Dr. Johnson, Arden Seymour, Oliver Rose, Frank Peebles, Ralph S. Brown, James P. Cooley, Silas Noble, J. Murray Gibbons, Edgar Holcomb, "Squire" James Cooley and Martin K. Bates, none of whom are now living, but each of whom in his day was a contributing factor for good in local annals.

In the same manner it is proper to mention the names of a few of Granville's prominent men of the present day, and in this connection present the names of B. J. Roberts, Edgar B. and E. G. Holcomb (the manufacturers and machinists), Dr. H. G. Rockwell, Joseph Welch, Benjamin F. Gibbons, Charles B. Thompson, Franklin A. Robinson (an extensive farmer in West Granville), John O. Roberts, Ralph B. Cooley, Orville R. Noble (the drum and toy manufacturer), Austin T. Phelon (a prosperous farmer), William S. Pomeroy, Cyrus W. Ives (the saw mill proprietor), James O. Rose (successful farmer), Milo E. Seymour, Charles H. Tyron, Edwin N. Henry, Lorenzo H. Noble (retired farmer), M. T. Gibbons (retired farmer), William M. Beckwith (substantial farmer and man of influence in the town).

CHAPTER VII

THE TOWN OF MONSON

BY DR. GEORGE E. FULLER

Monson, an integral part of Brimfield till 1760, is situated 85 miles southwest of Boston and 15 miles east of Springfield, and is bounded on the north by Palmer, east by Brimfield, south by Stafford and west by Wilbraham. It is in its largest dimensions about 6 miles from east to west, 9 miles from north to south, contains about 54 square miles of land and has a population of 3,402, according to the census of 1900.[1]

The village of Monson, looking from the south, is a swallow-tailed triangle, the apex to the south and the swallow-tails to the north, the one extending to the northwest to and beyond the W. N. Flynt granite quarries, and the other to the northeast through the north factory village. The village is walled about by the east and west hills and on the north by the rock-house ledges. Monson has the reputation given it by those who have travelled extensively of being *the* town par excellence, with its beautiful soldiers' monument, its granite library and granite memorial town hall, its churches, its residences and its well trimmed lawns and its hill sides rich in the green verdure of summer and richest sun-hued tints of autumn.

Monson was named in honor of the president of the British board of trade by his friend Thomas Pownall, who was governor of Massachusetts when the town was incorporated a district in 1760. The first house erected within its limits was built by Richard Fellows in 1657 or 8, on the north side of the Bay path,

[1]This census was taken when our industries were largely paralyzed and to-day we have an increase of at least 500 persons.

the east side of Chicopee brook and on the south line of the farm now occupied by William E. Fay.

This was the first house built between Springfield and Brookfield and was used as a tavern. Its position was well chosen as it was on hard land at the only spot between the North factory and the Quaboag (then called Chicopee river), at which the banks of Chicopee brook could be approached from both east and west on hard land.

This grant was made on petition of Richard Fellows by the general court at Boston, October 23, 1657. The petitioner "humbly desiring the honored court to grant him 200 acres of upland and meadow to be laid out to him at Chicopee river by George Colton and Benjamin Cooley. That the said land and stake be rent free, promising and engaging in consideration thereof to build a house there for the entertainment of travellers, both for house room for horse and man and some lodgings and provisions for both, with beere, wine and strong liquors". The general court deemed it meete and wise to grant his request, providing the petitioner build an house within one year, and maintain the same for seven years; both to entertain and accommodate strangers. Fellows probably built his tavern during this or the following year. His stay was short, for from fear of the Indians he within a year or two abandoned it, burying its tools, which were plowed up 80 years lated by Capt. James Merrick. Fellows came from and returned to Springfield and died in Hadley in 1663. Fellows, although he did not fulfil the conditions, retained possession of his grant and was allowed to dispose of it to Gov. Hutchinson. The title then lay dormant for 75 years, when it was confirmed by the general court held at Salem, June 22, 1733, to Edward Hutchinson and Mary Wolcott. They sold, March 30, 1738, for £800, to Daniel and John Wood of Newbury. John Wood took the easterly and Daniel the westerly half; but January 11, 1768, John purchased the westerly half of his brother. John Wood died in 1796 and his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, inherited the whole Fellows tract. Mrs. Taylor sold, in 1815, the eastern half to Joel Norcross, who in 1818 disposed of it to Rufus Fay, Sr., and it is now in the possession of his grandson, Wm. E. Fay.

The first permanent settler of Monson was Robert Olds, who located about 1715 south of and adjoining the Fellows grant. He was born in Suffield, Conn., and came to Monson from Springfield. Under date of April 17, 1722, he gave a mortgage on his 100 acre farm to Wm. Pynchon of Springfield. Capt. James Merrick purchased a part of this farm in 1734 and the remainder in 1736. Capt. Merrick and his sons, James, Aaron and Gideon, are said to have served in the French and Indian wars. Capt. James was a grandson of Thomas Merrick, one of the first settlers of Springfield. He was born January 1, 1698, and died in 1790, at the venerable age of 92 years. Capt. Merrick was one of the first selectmen of Monson and continued in office five years. He was an important factor in our early history as several of his descendants have been in later years. It is probable that the house in which C. M. Foley now resides was built by Capt. James Merrick nearly a century and a half ago. Another old house in Monson is that now occupied by John L. Borgeson, originally built by Capt David Hitchcock as early as 1734; also the house now occupied by Nelson Skinner, built by Freeborn Moulton and in the "ell" part of which it is said Moulton kept the first store in Monson; also the Bates house, so-called, now owned by Henry Rindge and built by David Hyde; also the Norcross house, so-called, built in the old colonial style by William Norcross and now used as tenement and boarding house.

The general court, June 20, 1701, appointed Col. John Pynchon, Capt. Thomas Colton, James Warriner, David Morgan and Joseph Stebbins to lay out a new township 8 miles square on the east boundary of Springfield. In the fall of that year they thrice visited the locality before they could decide where to lay the town plot. East hill, then called Chicopee hill, and later Grout hill, was chosen within the limits of the present town of Monson and a road 4 rods wide laid from the Connecticut line to the Grout school house. Thirteen grants were made on this road prior to December 31, 1701. There is now an old cellar hole on this road which is said to have been intended for the meeting house. These grants all lapsed, the conditions not having been fulfilled probably owing to the uncertainty caused by the French

House built by David Hyde about 1775

Now owned by Henry Rindge, Monson, Mass.

and Indian wars. Brimfield was granted June 16, 1772, an extension of 3 miles to the east and the town plot was changed to Tower hill in that town. Brimfield became a town by act of the general court December 24, 1731, and of the 84 proprietors to whom allotments were made, 10 were located within the limits of the present town of Monson. The names of the original settlers and the location of their grants, as far as known, were as follows: Robert Olds, the present C. M. Foley farm; David Killam, the site of the Massachusetts Epileptic hospital; Benjamin Munn,

House built by William Norcross about 1775
Now owned by S. F. Cushman Sons & Co., Monson

the farm of Edson M. Walker; Obediah Cooley, the farm of Joseph Carpenter; Ezra King, the farm of Wm. Holdridge; Samuel King, the farm of J. M. Craw, whose wife is a lineal descendant of Samuel King; John Keep, the farm of Daniel Carpenter; John Atcherson, the farm of Omar E. Bradway; Marke Ferry, an abandoned farm north of Wm. Beebe's; and Samuel Kilburn, whose location we have been unable to establish.

At the time of Monson's incorporation as a district, April 25, 1760, there were forty-nine families located within its limits.

The names of many of the original corporators have been familiar to the present generation. Such names are Blodgett, Bliss, Colton, Ferry, Homer, Hitchcock, King, Keep, Merrick, Munn, Moulton, Stebbins, Shaw, Warner and Woods.

The first district meeting was called by a warrant issued by Capt. John Sherman, who was the physician, school teacher, town clerk and justice of the peace of Brimfield.[1] This meeting was warned by constable Samuel King and was held at his house, which was situated near the present residence of James M. Craw. The original warrant with the indorsement of service is safely preserved in the archives of Monson. There is no record of this or any meeting held prior to March 16, 1762. As a district the inhabitants had all the rights of a town save only they must unite with the mother town in the choice of representative.

The first town meeting of which records are preserved was that of 1762, and was held at a tavern kept by Richard Bishop, located a little west of the present residence of S. Fred Cushman. At a subsequent meeting in the same year a committee was appointed to procure land on which to set the meeting house and have charge of raising it. The same year Rev. Abishai Sabin was settled as pastor. It thus appears that Monson's earliest citizens deemed it their first duty to erect a church and settle a minister. They builded their little commonwealth on the sure foundations which have given the religion of Puritan New England such an influence in the formation of the states of the great West.

Revolutionary Incidents. On June 23, 1774, the town voted with certain reservations to sign the non-importation covenant with Boston, and on September 5 voted £14 to provide a stock of ammunition.

October 3, 1774, Dea. Abel Goodell was chosen delegate to the Provincial congress to be held at Concord. December 29, 1774, the town approved of the choice of Freeborn Moulton as captain, Nathaniel Sikes as lieutenant and David Hitchcock as ensign. These officers were authorized to make up a quota of

[1]We have seen his ledger in which he made his medical charges. The writing is like copper plate as plain as print.

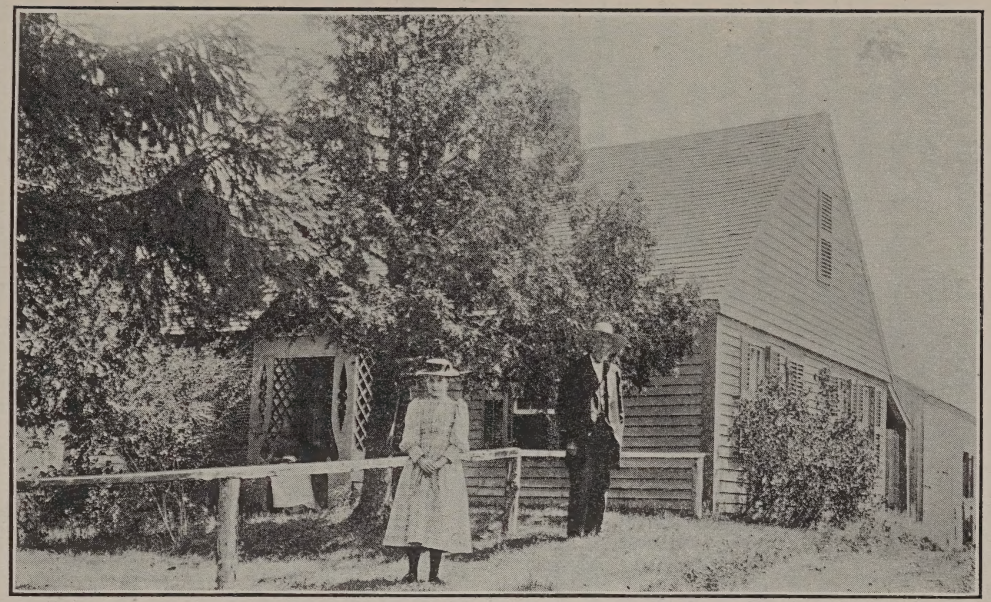
minutemen. Thus it will be seen that Monson was ready to do its part in case there should be war with the mother country, and when the war of revolution came the town spread on its records a copy of the declaration of independence.

Monson became a town with full powers in 1776, and Dea. Abijah Newell was elected the first representative. June 24, 1776, the town voted unanimously in favor of independence. May 23, 1777, the town voted 20 pounds bounty to men enlisting in the continental army. November 17, 1777, Capt. Joshua Shaw, Capt. Reuben Munn, Lieut. Reuben Hoar, Lieut. Simon Keep, Lieut. James Stebbins, Lieut. Jonathan Chapin and Lieut. Jonathan Coye were appointed a committee to settle with the continental soldiers. This indicates that commissioned officers were numerous in town. A search of the old records indicates that nearly if not quite all the able-bodied men of Monson, including the minister and the doctor, were at one time or another in the field for independence.

A letter addressed by Benjamin Munn, Abel Goodell and Noah Sabin to Samuel Adams and Joseph Warren, under date April 5, 1775, says, among other things: "We send a testimonial of our firm adherence to the great cause, in which everything dear to us is embarked. We profess a ready cheerfulness to shed our blood to oppose tyranny and oppression. We have 80 fellows in this district, a great part of which are disciplined and ready marksmen. I dare be bold to say that, at about 30 rods distant, they would pick off tories as fast as so many hawks would pick frogs from a frog pond."

Bounties were voted several times subsequently. June 26, 1778, the town voted £420 to pay the nine months' soldiers, and in the same year, September 1, the town voted £19 to pay for blankets for continental soldiers and also to pay for clothing carried to Philadelphia by Benjamin Munn. Several similar votes are recorded paying various bounties and caring for the families of soldiers while away on duty.

The men who laid the foundations of Monson in the last half of the 18th century belonged to a sturdy, heroic race. They wrought with all their might whether in church, war, town or



Residence of Thomas Styles, Monson, Mass.

The house where Phœbe Brown lived when she wrote the hymn, "I Love to Steal Awhile Away."
The house was built by —— Sabin

on the farm. There was an untold amount of work to be done in establishing a new town. There was a church, school houses and homes to be built, forests to be subdued, saw and grist mills to be erected and numberless roads to be laid out and built. The records show that 73 roads were laid out, accepted and built during the first 40 years of the town's history; and when we add to this the cost in blood, treasure and time expended in the constantly recurring wars of the period we are lost in wonder and admiration of the men who, ever invincible, conquered all their foes and gave to us the priceless treasure of civil and religious liberty. Large families were characteristic of the period. Families of 10 or 12 or more children were not uncommon.

During the revolution small pox became very prevalent and inoculation with it was resorted to. Under proper care and precautions only a small percentage of deaths occurred. May 18, 1778, Monson voted to set up "Enockeulation" for the small pox under proper restrictions by the selectmen.

The purchasing power of continental currency grew less and less as the war progressed, and on March 21, 1780, the town voted £9 per day for work on the highways to September 1, and £6 per day the rest of the year. The names of Munn, King, Wood, Hoar, Merrick, Shaw, Keep, Blodgett, Newton, Colton, Stebbins, Stacy, Norcross and Flynt appear frequently in the old records and they have representatives still with us, worthy scions of their worthy sires.

By the records of Monson it appears that money was first expressed in dollars and cents in 1795. Prior to that date it was pounds, shillings and pence. Committee after committee was appointed to seat and do various things to the old meeting house till 1797, when a committee was appointed to draw plans and devise means to build a new one. This old church was rectangular, about 20 feet high, without chimney or steeple, lighted by a single row of small windows. The second church was dedicated November 16, 1803.

Town meetings were called in "His Majesties" name until March 16, 1776. On May 21, 1776, the call was "in observance of colony writ", and on June 17, 1776, "by resolve of the general

court'', and on February 18, 1777, by ''power vested in the general court'', and from September 1, 1777, ''in the name of the government by the people'' till December 11, 1780. Since that time they have been called in the name of the ''Commonwealth of Massachusetts''.

In 1798 Freeborn Moulton and sixty others were set off as the first Baptist church of Monson. A meeting house was built in the west part of the town on the Hampden road, and flourished for many years, but it fell into a decline and the house was burned in 1856. The 19th century was ushered in by preparations to build a new meeting house. All denominations were to worship in it, each furnishing a supply in proportion to the amount realized from its members in the sale of the pews. Each was to have the right to attend without ''extortion of money'' to support another denomination. The pews were sold at auction and brought from 11 to 161 dollars each, and the total was $4,264. In the new church the young women were to sit on the east and the young men on the west side of the gallery.

At a town meeting held July 9, 1812, the town voted unanimously in the negative after a discussion of the war known as that of 1812, and appointed a committee to prepare resolves. These were prepared and accepted, deprecating the war with Great Britain, and the town also voted against an alliance with France. It was also voted to choose an agent to represent the town in convention to be held in Northampton, and Deodatus Dutton, Esq., was chosen as such agent.

The first half of the nineteenth century was for Monson, as for the country in general, an era of recuperation. The forests were largely subdued and the lands brought under subjection to the plow. The descendants of the first settlers, strong and hardy, active in mind and body, sought for other employment than that of tilling the soil. Utilizing the streams for power to card and spin and weave and for the various manufactures of steel, iron and wood, they found means close at hand for their active minds. Chicopee river and Twelve Mile brook in Monson became thickly studded with saw, grist, clover, carding, cotton and woolen mills. The iron, axe, lead pipe, spectacle and silk worm

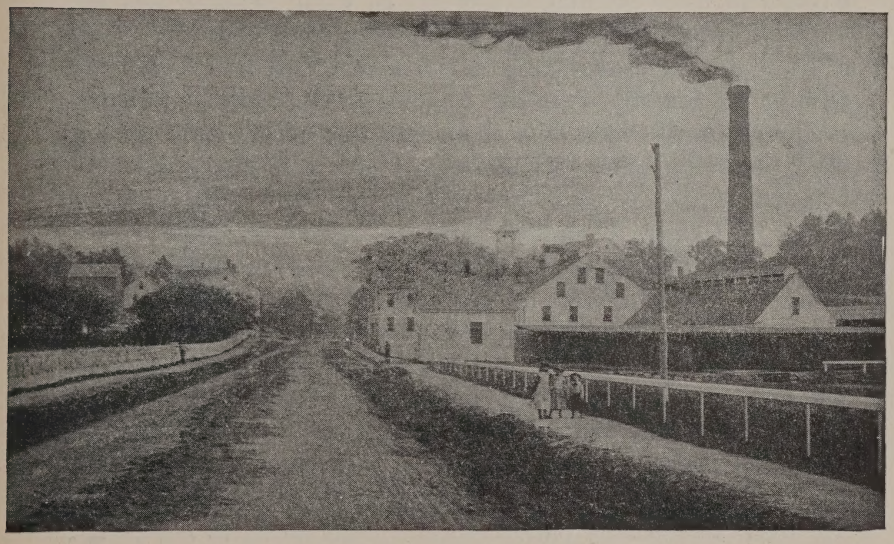
industries were tried but only for a time. David Hannum made axes at the North factory. Lead pipe was made by Timothy Packard, Sr., at a point a little east of Conant's grist mill. He sold out to Mason Moulton who continued the manufacture to 1824. Lead pipe was made by running the lead in sheets, cutting to proper width and moulding on an iron rod six feet long; the long joint was then soldered. Noah Sabin and Reuben Hoar made linseed oil as late as 1808 on the site of D. W. Ellis & Sons' mill. On the site of the New mill, so called, on the east side of the stream, Asa White had a grist mill till 1845, and on the west side was a small building for the manufacture of bar iron from scrap iron and bog iron mined near Cato's pool in Silver street. Joseph and Jeremiah Bumpstead operated the iron industry. There were clover mills on both Chicopee and Twelve Mile brook. Roswell and Gideon Merrick had a saw and grist mill at the north factory, which was taken down in 1816 and replaced in 1820 by the frame mill still standing. This mill was owned and operated by Witherell & Co. for the manufacture of cottons. Later on the east side of the stream a stone mill was built and operated successively by Dea. Andrew Porter, Albert Norcross, Jared Beebe and Heery Bros. till burned in 1894. As early as 1800 Asa Gates had a carding and finishing mill on the site of the present S. F. Cushman & Sons' woolen mill. Gates did carding and finished the home-spun cloth for the farmers. Gates sold in 1816 to the Monson Woolen Manufacturing Co. The plant next passed to the Hampden Cotton Manufacturing Co. In 1824 Horatio Lyon and others acquired the property under the name of the Monson Woolen Manufacturing Co. In 1870 Mr. Lyon became the sole owner and upon retiring from business in 1877 he sold out to S. F. Cushman.

Roswell Merrick as early as 1808 had a tannery and was succeeded by Stephen Tobey and his son Clinton. This industry, which had been very successful, was closed in 1870.

The Hampden Cotton company in 1813 erected the mill now owned and operated by Heritage & Hurst. This company in 1829 built a mill on the site where now stands the mill D. W. Ellis & Son. Two mills have been burned on this site, one in

1839 and one in 1869. Joseph L. Reynolds built the branch mill in 1837. He took into partnership Cyrus W. Holmes, Sr., and they disposed of it to the Hampden Cotton Co., and when that company dissolved, it was purchased by C. W. Holmes & Sons. The mill next passed to Holmes & Ellis, then to C. W. Holmes, Jr., then to S. F. Cushman & Sons, and in December, 1901, was by them sold to Leonard R. Rosenberg.

On the site of the South Straw shop, Joseph L. Reynolds in 1857 erected a mill which a few months later was burned. He



A view in South Monson

then rebuilt but never put in machinery, but the building became the nucleus of the straw goods manufacturing operated by Gage & Reynolds, and later by R. M. Reynolds. In the settlement of his estate it was recently acquired by Fred E. Langewald, who equipped it for the manufacture of worsted goods.

The woolen mill at present owned and operated by Ellis, Ricketts & Co. was originally built by Joseph L. Reynolds in 1860 and '61. It was burned in 1867, rebuilt in 1870 and substantially enlarged by its present owners in 1901. The plant is

now up to date in every respect for the manufacture of the finest woolens.

The Monson granite quarries owned and operated by the W. N. Flynt Granite Co. were first opened by the U. S. government about 1809 to obtain stone for use in building the U. S. armory at Springfield. The government having obtained its supply the quarries remained unworked till 1825, when they came into the possession of Rufus Flynt, who began operations with a gang of five men. Under the management of Wm. N. Flynt and W. K. Flynt and more recently of the W. N. Flynt Granite Co., the industry has grown rapidly and is now one of the most important of its kind of Monson, giving employment to nearly 500 men and sending its granite hewn and unhewn far and wide. Perhaps the industry which has done as much if not more to built up and make Monson prosperous is the straw and felt goods factory now owned and operated by Heiman & Lichten of New York. This was begun by Charles H. Merrick and Rufus Fay in 1838. Under their management it grew rapidly, furnishing not only employment for a large number of men and women in the factory, but also sending out its work into the families of Monson and the surrounding towns. This latter feature has been largely dropped and most of the work is now done in the factory. This industry gives work nearly the year round, on straw in the colder and felt in the warmer season.

War of 1861-5. The first gun fired at Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861, aroused the patriotism and indignation of the people of Monson as well as that of the whole loyal North. Patriotic meetings were held and enlistments began at once. A town meeting was called April 27, and on May 3 it was voted "That all the residents of Monson who enlist into the U. S. service, shall have their support and that of their families while drilling and preparing for active service from the funds of the town, and when called into active service, shall have a good outfit and ten dollars per month and their families sufficient support during such service". The sum of $5,000 was voted to carry the vote into effect under a committee consisting of Hiram Newton, Rufus F. Fay, Rice S. Munn, Sherman Converse, E. W. Sholes,

E. C. Robinson and J. B. Williams. At a later meeting it was voted to replace this committee by the board of selectmen, of whom Daniel G. Potter was chairman. At a special town meeting held May 3 Joseph L. Reynolds offered a resolution which was unanimously adopted, "That the people of this town are unanimous for upholding, supporting and defending the United States government and to that end are ready to respond to the legally constituted authorities of Massachusetts and the United States in the performance of every loyal and patriotic duty". August 18, 1862, a bounty of one hundred dollars was offered by the town to soldiers enlisting on its quota, and November 4 it was increased to one hundred and fifty dollars. From the list of 229 subject to military duty we learn that there were already in the service from Monson 84 men, or a little more than one-third of the able-bodied men of the town. From time to time additional bounties were offered, and these not proving sufficient to induce men to enlist to fill the quotas, a draft was resorted to by the government. The draft proved very unpopular and the selectmen were authorized (June 30, 1864,) to procure an agent to enlist or buy men to fill this and subsequent quotas.

As near as can be ascertained, Monson furnished 280 men for the service and at its close had to its credit 18 men over and above its quotas as called for by the state and national governments.

Three of the above, viz.: Capt. S. C. Warriner, 36th Mass. Vols., Capt. George H. Howe, 57th Mass. Vols., killed at the explosion of Burnside's mine July 30, 1864, and Lieut. George L. Dixon, second lieutenant 46th Mass. Vols., were officers.

Monson raised, appropriated and expended for her soldiers and their families the sum of $30,408.36 during the war, exclusive of state aid, which was refunded.

In 1864 there was a deficiency in the treasury, owing to the extraordinary demands upon it to meet the war expenses and seven of Monson's heavy tax-payers advanced the necessary funds. November 9, 1865, the town voted to reimburse these individuals.

During the war Monson was generous to its soldiers and their families, and since has appropriated all the money the

veterans have asked for and when the memorial town hall was built, provided excellent quarters for Marcus Keep post of the G. A. R.

There was no occasion for the town to take action during the Spanish-American war of 1898, as there were patriotic young men more than sufficient ready and willing to enlist. Monson has been well represented by her sons both in the Cuban and Philippine campaigns.

During the latter part of the civil war and the years immediately succeeding Monson enjoyed an era of unexampled prosperity. The laborer, the farmer, the merchant and the manufacturer all reaped a bountiful harvest. It is true that gold sold as high as 2.65 or even higher; flour 18 or 20 dollars a barrel; meal 2.65 per hundred weight; sugar 3 lbs. for a dollar; cottons 60 cents a yard; labor $2.25 per day, and other things in proportion; yet prudent persons with the limited demands of the time were able to have a goodly margin for profit.

Incidents. October 4, 1869, Monson was visited by the most remarkable flood in its history. It had rained quite steadily for two days, and on the third day in the afternoon it seemed as if the flood gates of the heavens had given away. Every bridge and every dam on the stream was washed away; the roads were badly gullied and many of them impassable. One mill was one-third undermined and another partially so. The factories and houses on the banks of the stream had their basements and cellars flooded. The meadows were flooded and wreckage of wood, timber, boards and pig-stys were floating on the surface. This flood damaged the town between sixty and seventy thousand dollars, making no reckoning of individual losses.

As the dark day of May 13, 1780, was long remembered, so will that of September 6, 1881. On this date the sun rose as a great ball of fire and by 7:30 a. m. was entirely obscured. The sky had a ghastly appearance, vegetation had the appearance of thick coat of green paint. The peculiar light caused in many people a strained feeling through the temples, attended with more or less pain. Some complained of faintness and a few actually swooned. Lights were needed by 10:30 a. m. and before

noon the factories, stores and private houses were lighted up as at night. The flames of a kerosene lamp had a peculiar bluish, brimstone look. The white dress of a little girl appeared to have a sulphurous hue. Bells sounded unusually loud. The barometer at noon was 29.80, the thermometer 76° and the hygrometer indicated 92 per cent. of moisture. Fowls walked around in a dazed way and then went to roost. Dew fell at midday, red flowers seemed of a salmon color. About 1:30 p. m. it began to

Congregational Church and Soldiers' Monument

grow lighter and continued to do so till at evening the smoke had all cleared away.

The fall of 1883 was remarkable for its brilliant sun glows as the sun was setting, and on August 10, at about 2 o'clock p. m., two distinct shocks of an earthquake were felt; the vibration was from west to east and sufficient to open doors.

July 4, 1884, will be remembered as the red letter day of Monson. The occasion was the dedication of the beautiful

soldiers' monument, erected by Cyrus W. Holmes, Sr., to commemorate the patriotism and valor of the soldiers of Monson, who on land and sea upheld the cause of national unity, 1861-1865. The monument stands 46 feet high and is surmounted by a granite soldier at parade rest. Its cost was $6,500. On either side are patriotic inscriptions and the monument is intended not only to honor the brave volunteers of the civil war, but also to be an object lesson in patriotic love of country to the coming generations.

Governor Joshua L. Chamberlain, of Maine, delivered the address. Gov. George D. Robinson and staff, department com-

Monson—The Memorial Town Hall

mander John D. Billings and staff, Battery B of Worcester and two companies 2d Mass. infantry, also the Grand Army posts of Western, Mass., were present, as well as the people of Monson and large delegations from all the surrounding towns. A monstrous tent was imported from Boston and more than 3,000 persons sat down to a repast within it. The cost of the day was about $2,500, and was paid from a subscription fund raised by the citizens of Monson. Dr. G. E. Fuller was president of the day and A. A. Gage was grand marshal.

The Memorial Town Hall. The annual town meeting of 1884 was unusually important as a proposition was made at that time by R. M. Reynolds to donate to the town a very desirable site for a memorial town hall, and also with his brother Theodore to donate to the town $5,000 each to the building fund. His father, Joseph L. Reynolds, also offered a like sum for the same object; the only conditions being that the town erect the building of granite or other indestructable material and appropriate not less than $20,000 for its construction. The proposition was accepted and R. M. Reynolds, Cyrus W. Holmes, Jr., S. F. Cushman, Dr. G. E. Fuller, A. D. Ellis, J. C. Aldrich and A. A. Gage were appointed a committee to secure plans and erect the building. It was stipulated that the building should be of granite and one which would be a credit to the town and an honor to the patriot soldiers in whose memory it was designed to built. On November 4, 1884, the town voted an additional $5,000 to complete and furnish the structure. The first town meeting was held in the finished building August 15, 1885, when the report of the building committee was accepted and a vote of thanks extended to them and to the contractors, the Flynt building and construction company.

Water Supply. The town (February 10, 1894,) appointed a committee to examine into the matter of water supply for fire and domestic purposes. On May 17 of the same year the town accepted the report of the committee and also the special act of the legislature, entitled an act to supply the town of Monson with water.

On May 31, A. D. Norcross, E. F. Morris and R. M. Reynolds were elected water commissioners and the town voted to issue bonds in the sum of $65,000 to meet the necessary cost of constructing the system. Work was begun at once and was completed early in the following year. The gravity system was adopted, and in quantity and quality every requirement has been fulfilled.

An electric street railway was opened to Monson and the first car was run over the road January 16, 1900. The connection between Palmer and Indian Orchard was completed in the

early fall of 1901. The steam railroad from Palmer south through Monson was constructed and opened for traffic in 1850.

The first half of the 19th century produced the men and the business enterprises which in later years made Monson the leading town of Hampden county, in proportion to its population, in the number of its men of large means. The ample fortunes accumulated and estates left by Horatio Lyon, Joseph L. Reynolds, the Holmes (Cyrus W. Sr., and Jr.), Solomon F. Cushman and Dwight W. Ellis sufficiently attest the truth of this statement. The financial reverses of 1837, '57, '77 and '93 gave ample opportunity to test the material of which Monson's manufacturers were made. The generosity and public-spiritedness of such men as these has added materially to the prosperity and welfare of the town and has made possible the Lyon Memorial library building with its 8,000 volumes and $40,000 endowment fund, the soldiers' monument erected by Cyrus W. Holmes, Sr.; the memorial town hall, so largely aided in construction by the Reynolds; the Congregational and Universalist churches, aided, respectively, by Horatio Lyon and D. W. Ellis; the park and memorial fountain, by Wm. N. Flynt, and a second memorial fountain by Solomon F. Cushman.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1861 AND 1901.

1861, school appropriation, $1,800; 1901, school appropriation $12,307.

1861, number of polls, 636; 1901, number of polls, 1,082.

1861, value personal estate, $329,000; 1901, value personal estate, $501,711.

1861, value real estate, $690,000; 1901, value real estate, $1,258,300.

1861, tax rate per $1,000 was $6.09; 1901, tax rate per $1,000 was $14.20.

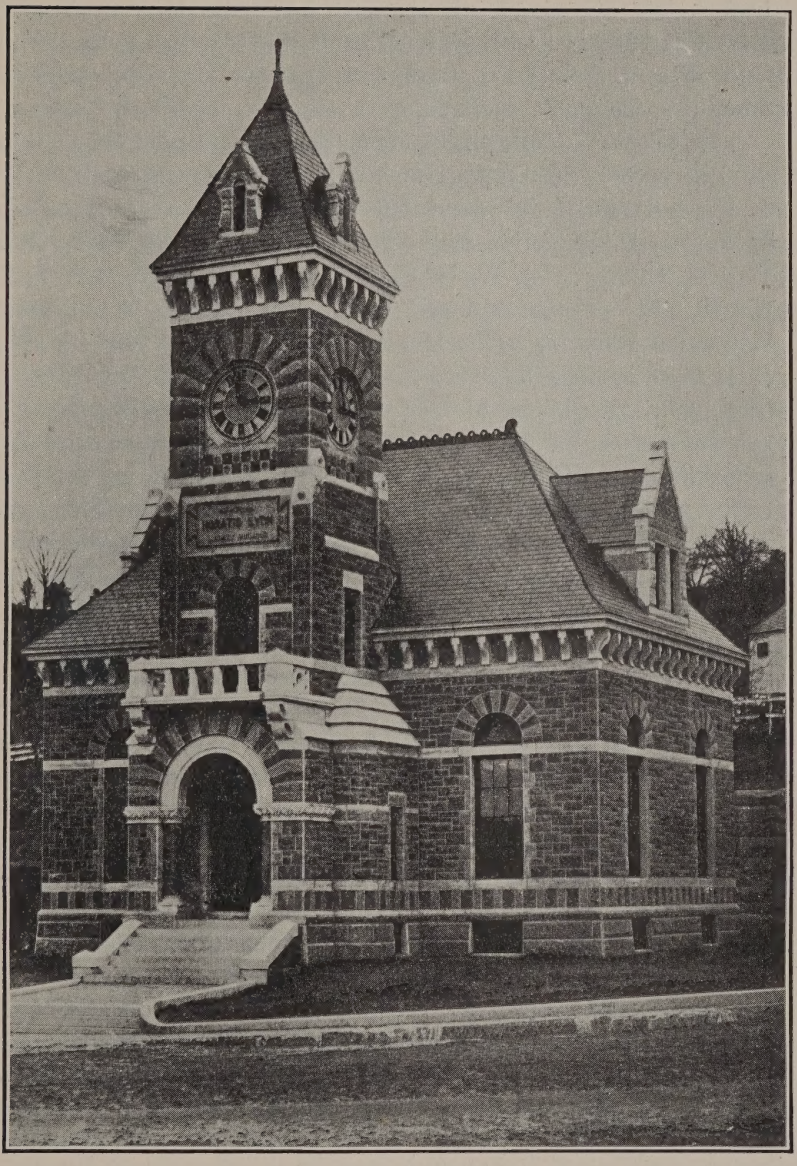
1861, number of houses, 413; 1901, number of houses, 699.

1861, number of horses, 307; 1901, number of horses, 488.

1861, number of cows, 725; 1901, number of cows, 893.

1861, number of sheep, 590;1901, number of sheep, 27.

In 1861 the following persons and firms paid more than $50 taxes: David N. Coburn, $62.25; Wm. N. Flynt, $57.34; Warren



Lyon Memorial Library

Fuller, $90; Cyrus W. Holmes, Sr., $65.49; Monson Woolen Mfg. Co., $121.50; Dea. A. W. Porter, $60.33; Monson & Brimfield Mfg. Co., $91.39; Hampden Cotton Mfg. Co., $209.71; Joseph L. Reynolds, $175.20.

In 1901 the following persons and firms paid more than $150 in taxes: Cushman's Home mill, $849; Branch mill, $231; S. Fred Cushman, $156; Hattie Cushman, $175; A. D. Ellis, $349; Dr. F. W. Ellis, $301; D. W. Ellis & Sons, $961; Mrs. Wm. N. Flynt, $177; W. N. Flynt Granite Co., $760, Dr. G. E. Fuller, $185; Esther Holmes, $1,116; Heritage & Hirst, $482; Heiman & Lichten, $378; Monson Savings Bank, $248; Morris & Hyde, trustees, $177; H. D. Moulton, $215; Mark Noble, $191; estate Theo. Reynolds, $1,235; Joseph Reynolds, $153.

Educational. The first record of an appropriation for school purposes in Monson, appears in the records of a "Destrict" meeting held March 19, 1765, as follows: "Voted to raise Ten Pounds for Schooling." At the same meeting it was voted that Lieut. Thomas Stebbins and others be a committee "to divide the *Destrict* for Schooling."

At a meeting held October 29 of the same year it was "Voted that every Destrict Provide there own Schooling."

At a meeting held August 24, 1767, an appropriation of £15 was made for the support of schools. In 1768 this was increased to £20. The records of the meeting held in 1768 state that "a motion to new regulate the districts," and another "to choose a committee seasonably to provide schoolmasters for the several divisions or districts in 'Ye' Monson" were "voted in the negative."

In 1770, £25 were voted for the support of schools.

In 1771, the effort "to new settle the school districts" was successful, and a committee consisting of Joseph Colton and others divided the town into nine districts. For several years the appropriations were only from £25 to £35. At times the portion of money belonging to a district was given to a certain person to be "schooled out." A number of such votes appear in the records.

During the revolutionary war the appropriation went up to £100, but in 1791 it dropped to £60. This fluctuation was

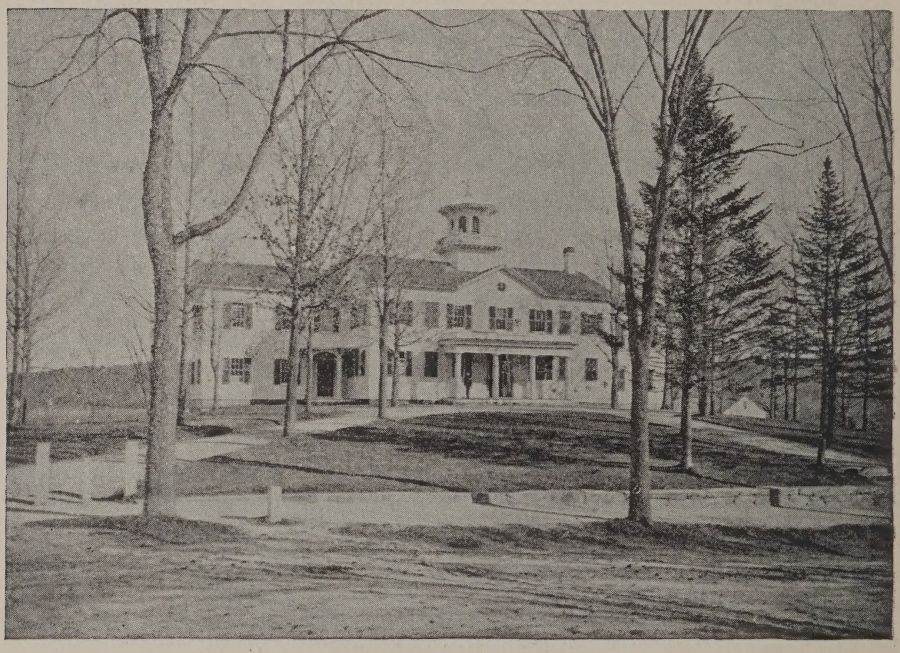
due to the low value of paper money during the war. About the beginning of the nineteenth century the town regularly appropriated about $500 for schools, and also made an effort to go beyond the requirements of the state in regard to education. This effort resulted in the establishing of Monson academy.

For many years the name of the Rev. Alfred Ely is closely identified with school work. He examined the teachers, visited the schools and introduced the reading of the bible and the study of the catechism into the schools. For all this work he received no compensation whatever. Later on Rev. Charles Hammond, LL. D., did much for the schools. His work is seen chiefly in the abolishing of the old district system. Rev. James Tufts took up the work where Mr. Hammond laid it down, and for over forty years he labored untiringly for the improvement of the school system. His last efforts were towards forming a superintendency district. This work was accomplished in a district formed by the union of Monson with Brimfield.

Monson Academy, one of the time-honored institutions of this part of the state and one in which the town justly takes great pride, was founded June 21, 1804. The act of incorporation, secured by eager and whole-souled men from Monson and eight neighboring towns, was passed by the general court on that date, and on the 23d of October, 1806, an academy building, erected by the generous citizens of the town, was formally dedicated. In the following November the academy began its active career with 21 pupils.

Massachusetts was the first state to aid schools in the work of fitting candidates for college. From the sale of public lands in the district of Maine she granted endowments to academies already planted in every county of the state and gave to some liberal grants of land in Maine. It seemed fitting to establish another institution of learning in the territory that lay between Westfield academy and Leicester academy, the latter being in Worcester county. The town of Brimfield, with a population of 1,200, and Monson, with 1,300, entered into a spirited contest for the honor. The choice fell on Monson, together with a gift from the state legislature of a half-township of land in Maine.

Of individuals named in the act and considered as founders, there were fifteen, the list being headed by Rev. John Willard of Stafford, Conn. One name, that of Abner Brown, a representative to the general court, should be remembered for his zeal and efficient agency in securing the act from the legislature. Against tremendous opposition in that body he guided the bill with great shrewdness and wisdom.



The Old Academy

The general purpose of the founders was to establish a school where students should secure "as good an education as the best schools in the largest towns would be likely to provide." The specific aim was to fit young men for college. The citizens of the town, enthusiastic in the purpose of reserving the aid granted by the state absolutely for the running expenses of the school, subscribed $4,000 for the building and the preparation of the ground. The people had good reason to be proud of their

seminary for at that day it was surpassed in spaciousness and finish by no other edifice erected for learning in Western Massachusetts.

The first president of the corporation was Rev. Dr. John Willard of Stafford, Conn., a graduate of Harvard in 1751, and a brother of the president of that college. Dr. Simeon Colton, a graduate of Yale, 1806, was the first principal. He served for one year, but afterwards returned and was principal for nine successive years.

Monson Academy

A charity fund, to aid candidates for the ministry, was established in 1825, chiefly through the exertions of Dr. Alfred Ely, pastor of the Congregational church in Monson. Among other staunch benefactors of the institution in many ways stand pre-eminent the names of Joel Norcross, Rufus Flynt, Timothy Packard, Amos Norcross, Deacon Royal Merrick and Deacon Haskell.

The institution has had a long line of able teachers, many of them having become distinguished here and in other schools. Among others of prominence there may be specially mentioned Richard S. Storrs, Jr., Rev. James Tufts and Rev. Charles Hammond. Of pupils who have attended the academy much might be said for they number more than 7,000. More than 600 entered college and of these more than 200 became clergymen. Many missionaries have gone from the institution to all parts of the world. In 1829 there came to Monson two students from Greece, one of whom became the famed Professor Sophocles.

China and Japan have often been represented at Monson. In 1847 three Chinese boys entered the academy. Yung Wing, trained in Monson, died possessed of international reputation as an educator. The late Henry Barnard, one of America's greatest authorities on educational matters, also was a student at the academy.

The buildings are new and stand in a prominent location in the town. The present academy building was erected through the liberality of many of the alumni and other friends. A total of more than $20,000 was raised by popular subscription under the efforts of William N. Flynt, an indefatigable worker for the institution.

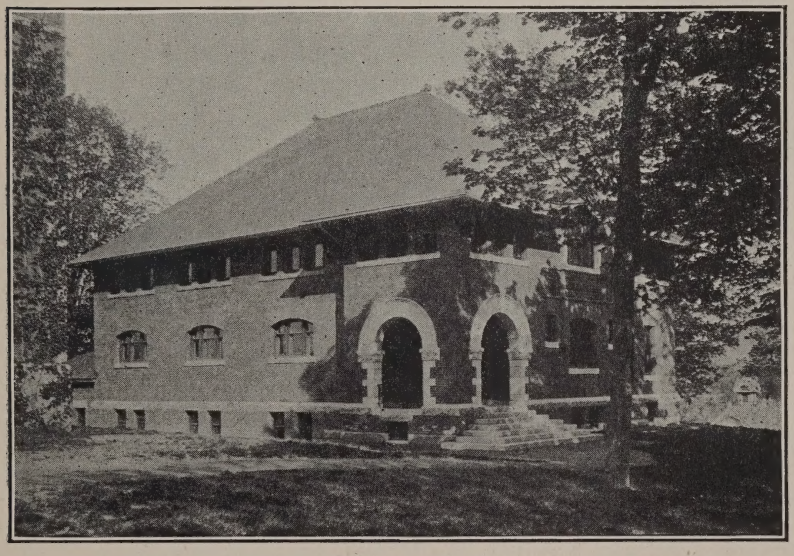
In 1887 the Trustees secured a large building, formerly owned by Dr. Hammond, for a dormitory and boarding hall. This building, now named Hammond hall, had previously been refitted for a boys' private school. In 1899, through the generosity of Esther R. Holmes, there was built for the academy a spacious and very serviceable gymnasium. It is called the Holmes gymnasium in memory of the donor's father, Cyrus W. Holmes, Jr.

At present, besides the principal, there are seven instructors in the academy. The board of trustees consists of fifteen members as follows:

Edward F. Morris, Monson; Marcus P. Knowlton, LL. D., Springfield; Rev. Payson W. Lyman, Fall River; Prof. William L. Cowles, Amherst; Frederick W. Ellis, M. D., Monson; Henry A. King, Springfield; Rev. Franklin S. Hatch, Monson; Wilson

M. Tucker, Monson; William H. Hall, A. M., West Hartford, Conn.; Perlin W. Soule, Monson; Rev. Charles A. Dinsmore, South Boston; Lyman C. Flynt, Monson; Arthur D. Norcross, Monson; Thaddeus L. Cushman, Monson; James H. Tufts, Ph. D., Chicago, Ill.

Three of the above mentioned trustees, Edward F. Morris, Frederick W. Ellis, M. D., and Wilson N. Tucker, constitute the prudential committee, a committee entrusted with the immediate direction of affairs in the academy. The office of treasurer is held by Thaddeus L. Cushman.



Holmes' Gymnasium, Monson

The subscriptions for the first academy building, erected in 1806, were given wholly by residents of Monson, amounting to $3,330. The funds from the sale of the half-township in Maine amounted to about $10,000. The educational or charity fund for ministerial candidates aggregated $6,238. At the present time it amounts to more than $11,000. The library fund, originally of $500, the joint donation of Rufus Flynt, and Timothy

Packard, given at first for prizes, but later appropriated by the donors for a library, now amounts to $1,100. The Persian scholarship of $2,000 was the bequest of Rev. James Merrick, missionary to Persia, and now amounts to more than $4,300. The income may be given to one or divided between two members of the senior class. There are three prizes open to the competition of students. One arises from the income of the Dewey fund of $500 established by Mrs. Hadassah Dewey and provides $20 each year for excellence in declamation, the amount to be

Monson Academy

divided equally between two students, a boy and a girl. Another prize is created from the income from a fund of $500 established by the class of 1882, to be presented to the senior student who shall write the best English essay. A prize of $15 for the greatest progress made in algebra, was founded in 1901 by Dr. Hassett, of Lee.

Postoffice. The Monson postoffice was established June 24, 1814, and became a third class presidential office in December, 1874, a money order office in 1871 and an international money

order office in July, 1881. For nearly 65 years the office was located at various places along North Main street, but in 1879 it was moved into Central block on Main street. This building was burned November 12, 1893, and all of the office property, with the exception of a few records, was destroyed. The office was then placed in the Bank block, on the corner of Main and Washington streets, its present location.

Since the office was organized the postmasters have been as follows:

Artemus Wiswell, June 24, 1814; Rufus Flynt, July 29, 1816; Edwin Norcross, January 28, 1836; Wm, N. Packard, May 25, 1841; Austin Fuller, August 22, 1845; Lucius E. Truesdell, April 10, 1847; Foster Pepper, February 17, 1849; Timothy F. Packard, January 3, 1850; Foster Pepper, July 7, 1853; Joshua Tracy, June 26, 1858; Elmer B. Miles, June 21, 1861; Daniel G. Potter, September 28, 1866; Myron D. Porter, April 8, 1869; Edwin E. Towne, June 22, 1869; Rice S. Munn, December 22, 1873; Arthur D. Norcross, November 13, 1880; G. W. Farrington, May 25, 1886; John P. Herlihy, Jr., August 12, 1895; Geo. H. Seymour, January 3, 1900.

The Fire Department was organized May 2, 1887, and since that time on frequent occasions has demonstrated its efficiency and usefulness as an element of municipal life. At first the apparatus comprised two chemical engines and one hose wagon; the equipment in 1901 comprises two chemical engines, one hook and ladder truck, three hose carriages, and one "hand tub", an hundred years old, yet still serviceable. In connection with the water supply system and its twenty-one fire hydrants and a pressure of 140 pounds to the square inch the local department appears well prepared for any emergency. The officers are David B. Needham, chief engineer; Lyman C. Flynt, 1st assistant, and E. P. Donovan, 2d assistant and clerk.

The Water Works. By an act of the legislature, passed April 21, 1894, the town of Monson was authorized to supply itself with water for domestic purposes and fire protection and to issue bonds to pay for the same. On May 17 of the same year the town accepted the act and proceeded to choose three water

commissioners and appropriated sixty-five thousand dollars to build the works. A. D. Norcross, E. F. Morris and R. M. Reynolds were the first commissioners.

The water supply is obtained from a ground well 80 feet in diameter and 25 feet deep, situated about two miles east of the village and at an elevation of 322 feet above Main street. High pressure and ample supply of very pure water were obtained. Much care was exercised in the construction of the system and the best of materials and fixtures were used. Bonds to the amount of $59,000 were issued to cover the cost of construction. The total length of mains at the present time is about 12 miles; service taps, 200; fire hydrants, 91.

Libraries. The first library formed in Monson, of which records have been preserved, was that called the Social Library company, organized January 1, 1796. This library was kept in the house of Jonathan Torrey, who was the librarian and one of the prime movers in the enterprise. Squire Torrey lived in the southwest part of the town in a house since burned, but which was located on the road between the residences of Zina Harris and Henry Bradway. The library was owned by thirty-one persons. The names of Torrey, Goodwin, Ellis, Fuller, Cady, Bennett, Pease, Osborn, Shaw, Butler, Firmin, Bedortha and Orcutt appear as right owners in the library, and if we judge by the titles of the 235 volumes in their catalogue they were sound in theology and possessed of cultivated literary tastes. Here are a few titles: Josephus, 4 vols.; Burgh's Dignity of Human Nature; Blair's Sermons, 2 vols.; Cases of Conscience; Edward's History of the Reformation; Harvey's Meditations; Afflicted Man's Companion; Zion's Pilgrim; Henry on Prayer; American Biography. This library after 56 years of service was divided among the rightful owners in 1852. The constitution, by-laws and catalogues of the old library were presented to the Monson free library and R. R. association by Wm. G. Button, the grandson of Squire Torrey.

The second library formed in Monson was named "The Augmenting Social Library association" and was located in the center of the town. It was organized in August, 1800, and was

a joint stock association, at first with twelve but later eighteen proprietors. Rufus Flynt was the librarian and Dr. Ede Whitaker, Capt. Gad Colton, Joel Norcross, Stephen Morton and Col. Abner Brown were shareholders.

The next library in town was the academy library, known as the Flynt and Packard library in honor of the men who gave $500 each as a permanent fund, the income to be expended in the purchase of books. This library was organized about 1835 and was and is for the benefit of Monson academy. There was

Lyon Memorial Library

also an agricultural library in town owned by the farmers who contributed five dollars each for the purchase of books. This consisted of 84 volumes.

The first movement in town to establish a free library was made March 27, 1877, when Dr. G. E. Fuller, A. A. Gage, Charles Fowler, R. S. Munn, S. F. Cushman, Charles H. Merrick, C. W. Holmes, Jr., W. K. Flynt, Charles Hammond, LL. D., E. F. Morris, W. J. McElwain, Geo. H. Newton, Rev. C. B. Sumner, Frank E. Morris, Rev. James Tufts and B. A. Day, associated

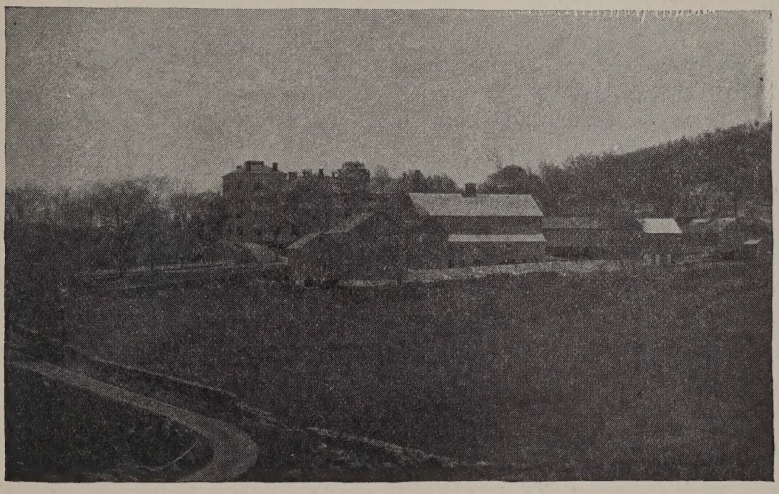
themselves together for the purpose of forming a free library for the town of Monson. There were numerous meetings and consultations as to the best course to adopt, and as a result it was decided to obtain a charter, which was done March 1, 1878. Officers were elected and a library was opened with 753 volumes. Of these two hundred and five were purchased with the town appropriation; two hundred and six were contributed by the Book club; eighty-four were contributed by the Farmers' agricultural library, and two hundred and fifty-eight were obtained as the result of a canvass of the village. The library was opened free to the public, June 17, 1878.

The beautiful Memorial library building, the generous gift of Mrs. Carrie R. Dale in memory of her father, the late Horatio Lyon, was erected in 1881-2 at a cost of $35,000, and was dedicated March 28, 1882, with impressive ceremonies. When completed the institution was endowed with a permanent fund of $20,000, given for that purpose by Mrs. Lyon; and this fund has been since increased by a bequest of $10,000 in the will of Sophia B. Holmes, and an equal sum from the estate of Nancy M. Lyon. The present permanent fund aggregates $40,000, from which, with $300 annually appropriated by the town, the trustees of the library have ample means for the maintenance and increase of one of the noblest institutions of the town. On the shelves of the library are more than 7,600 volumes or books.

The officers of the association are Dr. George E. Fuller, president; E. F. Morris, vice-president; T. L. Cushman, treasurer; F. E. Morris, secretary; Nellie A. Squier, librarian. The board of directors comprises B. A. Day, Dr. C. W. Jackson, Dr. F. W. Ellis, Lyman C. Flynt and Arthur D. Norcross.

Hospital for Epileptics. The Massachusetts Hospital for epileptics was established by an act of the legislature in 1895. The buildings were erected on the site of the state primary school at Monson, for the accommodation of about 100 men and the same number of women. In 1899 and 1900 further buildings were constructed so that the total number treated is about 400. These buildings are on the cottage plan, separated by a number of hundred feet from each other and yet not too far apart to be served by a central heating plant.

The buildings for the accommodation of patients are all brick except two cottages which are old buildings remodeled. One of these cottages is on a distant hill about a mile from the main institution and is, of course, separated from the common supply of heat and water. It is, however, beautifully located and will serve as a nucleus for a farm or colony group, while the question of water supply and drainage can be conveniently handled. In the main group the water supply is abundant and of the very best quality, giving a pressure of 100 pounds at the boiler-house.



The State Hospital for Epileptics

It is estimated that there are at least 1,200 institution cases available when accommodation can be provided for them. About one-half of all the cases will be classed as insane, while the larger portion of the other half are practically insane a large part of the year. It is the plan to provide congenial surroundings and hope-inspiring treatment for such other cases of epileptics as may apply for admission. It is known that there are several hundred such cases as these, very many of them now without satisfactory homes.

A boot and shoe manufactory is worked to advantage with the patients' labor. A large portion of all the footwear is here made, and all cobbling is done in this shop. A large workroom covering an area of 6,000 square feet and serving the double purpose of industrial room and assembly room, is also provided. The patients are housed largely in dormitories caring for from 3 to 25 persons in a room.

A convenient infirmary has been built in which 20 men and 20 women are provided for in four distinct wards. There is also a medical center comprising a dispensary, laboratory, and operating room in the same building. A diet kitchen and accommodations for photography and electrical treatment are also furnished. Two large rooms in the basement are given up to hydrotherapeutic treatment.

Monson National Bank. The Monson bank was incorporated under the state law March 28, 1854, with a capital of $150,000, and was reorganized under the national banking act, August 25, 1864, being the first national bank in the county east of Springfield. Austin Fuller, Albert Norcross and William N. Flynt were the original incorporators. On April 10, 1854, William N. Flynt was elected president, and on the 21st of the same month Jonathan R. Flynt, of Tolland, Conn., was elected cashier. The first board of directors was as follows: Horatio Lyon, Joseph L. Reynolds, John W. Foster, Jacob B. Merrick, Cyrus W. Holmes, William N. Flynt and Warren Fuller.

William N. Flynt served as president until October, 1859, at which time Jonathan R. Flynt was elected to fill that office, and Edward C. Robinson was elected cashier. Jonathan R. Flynt died July 31, 1860, and on August 13 of the same year Jacob B. Merrick was elected president to fill the vacancy caused by his death. October 21, 1861, John Wyles, of Brimfield, was elected president, and served in that capacity until January, 1871, when Cyrus W. Holmes succeeded him. Mr. Holmes acceptably filled the position until his death April 20, 1891, having served as president for twenty years. On May 4, 1891, Rice M. Reynolds was elected president, and held the office until his death April 3, 1898. On April 20, 1898, Solomon F. Cushman

was elected president, and served until his death, May 26, 1900. On June 3, 1900, Dr. George E. Fuller was elected president, and now serves in that capacity.

On March 1, 1864, E. C. Robinson resigned as cashier, and on March 30 Edward F. Morris was elected to fill the vacancy, and is the present cashier of the bank.

The present board of directors is as follows: Edward F. Morris, George E. Fuller, Lyman C. Flynt, Frank E. Morris, Arthur D. Norcross, Edward D. Cushman and Charles W. King.

This institution has always been managed in a conservative way, and has been very successful. The opportunities for large profits in a town the size of Monson are few, and while the deposits in this institution have always been small, the stockholders have had no reason to be dissatisfied with their holdings. For a long term of years the bank paid a semi-annual dividend of 5%, and for a still further term 4% semi-annually, besides the stockholders taxes, making the dividend net. Since 1897 the dividends have been at the rate of 3% net semi-annually. The bank now has a capital of $150,000 and a surplus of about $87,000.

Monson Savings Bank. The date of incorporation of the Monson Savings bank was March 29, 1872. The bank opened its doors for business June 1, 1872.

The incorporators were William N. Flynt, Cyrus W. Holmes, Jr., Timothy F. Packard, Charles H. Merrick, Alfred Norcross, Rice M. Reynolds, Rice S. Munn, Edwin E. Towne, Rufus F. Fay and Daniel G. Potter. On May 8, 1872, the following were added as members of the corporation: Dwight W. Ellis, Edward F. Morris, Solomon F. Cushman, Jacob L. Bradway, Charles Carpenter and Rodolphus Homer. Of the original incorporators there are but two survivors, Edwin E. Towne and Edward F. Morris.

The first board of trustees comprised C. W. Holmes, Jr., Alfred Norcross, S. F. Cushman, R. M. Reynolds, D. W. Ellis, R. F. Fay and E. E. Towne.

On May 4, 1872, Charles H. Merrick was elected president. Edward F. Morris was elected treasurer on May 20, 1872.

Mr. Merrick served as president until May, 1885, when R. S. Munn was chosen his successor. Mr. Munn served until his

death February 15, 1890. On May 7, 1890, C. W. Holmes, Jr., was elected president, and held the office until his death in May, 1891. On May 6, 1891, S. F. Cushman was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Holmes, and served until May 31, 1893, at which time Edward F. Morris was elected president. He is still in office. On May 31, 1893, Frank E. Morris was elected as treasurer, and now holds the office.

The present board of trustees is as follows: Edward F. Morris, Frank E. Morris, Arthur D. Norcross, Lyman C. Flynt, George H. Foskit, Perlin W. Soule, Fred W. Ellis, Edward D. Cushman, Carlos M. Gage, Wesley A. Squier, Rufus P. Cushman, Rufus Fay and George C. Flynt.

The bank has grown constantly since its organization and has paid its depositors interest in regular semi-annual dividends of from seven to four per cent, per annum; has always been prosperous, never met with any serious reverses, and is an institution of which Monson has reason to be proud.

The deposits are now $1,193,000, and the surplus over $90,000.

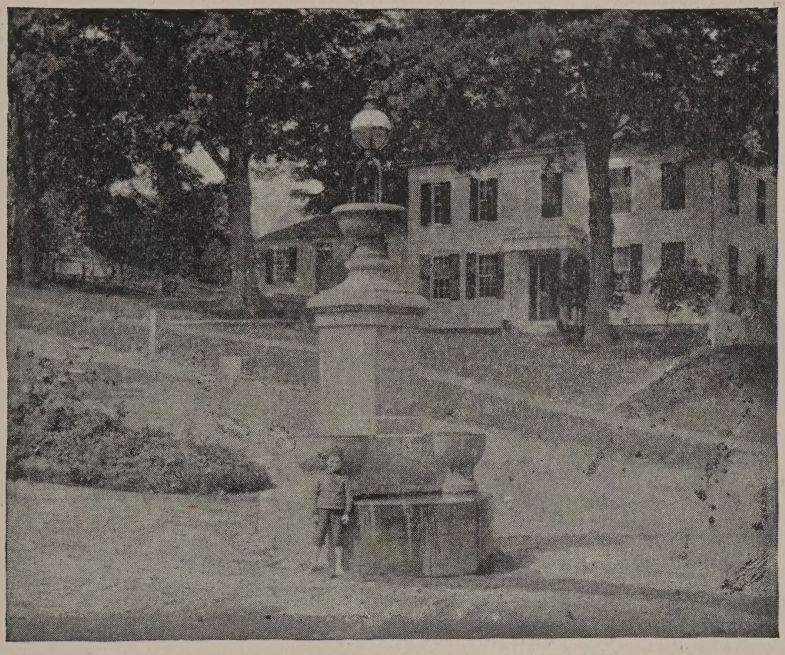
In 1892-3 a new building was erected, and the same was occupied the first day of June, 1893, on the twenty-first anniversary of the opening of the institution.

MANUFACTURES

The W. N. Flynt Granite Company. The quarries owned by this company are situated on a hill one mile north of Monson village and cover an area of 300 acres. The working face is 1,000 feet long and parts are 40 feet high. The stone is of two distinct shades, light and dark, and free from iron. The quarry was first opened by the U. S. government to obtain stone for the armory in Springfield. Rufus Flynt acquired it in 1824 and was succeeded by his son, Wm. N. Flynt, in 1836. There is a spur track 2 miles long connecting the quarry with the Central Vermont railroad. The shipments of stone in the present year have amounted to 75,000 tons, valued at $200,000. For eight months of the year the company employs from 400 to 500 men and the pay roll for the same time was $110,000. The firm name

since 1884 has been the W. N. Flynt Granite Co. The firm was then composed of Wm. N. Flynt, and his four sons, Wm. K., Rufus, Lyman C. and Geo. C. Flynt, of whom only the last two now survive. The present officers are Lyman C. Flynt, president; George C. Flynt, superintendent and treasurer, and M. F. Moore, general manager.

D. W. Ellis & Son. This business was established in 1873 by D. W. Ellis, who erected the present mill building. The



Flynt Fountain

mill has been in continuous operation since that year, and has four sets of machinery and gives employment to about 75 men, with an annual pay roll of $25,000.

Ladies' cloakings and dress goods have been the product for the past few years. About 120,000 yards of 6-4 goods were manufactured in 1900, in which about 350,000 pounds of grease wool was used. The firm is composed of A. D. Ellis and W. J. Ricketts' estate.

Ellis, Ricketts & Co. The property of this firm was purchased by D. W. Ellis & Son of the Reynolds estate in November, 1900, and is employed in the manufacture of ladies' cloakings and dress goods. It is a 5 set mill and gives employment to about 85 hands. The firm name is Ellis, Ricketts & Co., and is composed of A. D. Ellis, W. J. Ricketts' estate and A. E. Shaw.

The S. F. Cushman & Sons Woolen Mill. The site this mill now occupies was used as early as 1800 by Asa Gates for a carding and finishing mill and was one of the earliest wool carding industries started in this country. On March 6, 1816, he deeded the property to the Monson Woolen Mfg. Co. and it was changed into a two-set woolen mill. The property was deeded a few years later to the Hampden Cotton Mfg. Co., and on September 3, 1824, it was deeded to Horatio Lyon, Joel Norcross, John Wyles, and Charles Fay. They again incorporated the Monson Woolen Mfg. Co. on November 29, 1825. On September 30, 1870, the property was sold to Horatio Lyon. On November 30, 1877, the business passed into the hands of S. F. Cushman. The property at the present time is owned by his sons, R. P., S. F., T. L. and R. H. Cushman, who conduct the business under the firm name of S. F. Cushman & Sons. The mill has been twice destroyed by fire. The present building is of brick and was erected in 1886. It contains 5 sets of modern machinery. The mill has made in years past broadcloth, satinets, cassimeres, and doeskins. At present the mill employs about 85 operatives (about evenly divided between men and women) with an annual pay roll of $40,000. The present manufactures are kerseys and cloakings.

Heimann & Lichten, straw goods and felt hat manufacturers. This firm consists of Julius Heimann and M. C. Lichten, who purchased the plant in August, 1890. They are the successors of Merrick, Fay & Co., who established the straw goods industry here in 1841. The present owners have enlarged the factory to nearly double its former capacity. The straw goods are manufactured in the colder and the felt goods in the warmer part of the year. They employ from 250 to 350 men and women, about two-thirds of the employees being women. The gross

value of the annual output is about $500,000. The cost of the raw material used each year is about $260,000, and consists of straw braids imported from China, Japan, Italy and Germany, and felt of domestic manufacture. The annual pay roll is more than $125,000.

Heritage & Hirst, woolen manufacturers. The firm consists of Charles Heritage and Edwin Hirst, and they operate what is called the "Old Cotton," built in 1814 by the Hampden Cotton Manufacturing company. This mill was enlarged by the addition of a weave shed with 40 broad looms, by R. M. & Theodore Reynolds. It has been used as a woolen mill since 1846, and was acquired in 1901 by its present owners. The firm employs 110 operatives, two-thirds men and one-third women. The annual pay roll is $45,000, and the production 260,000 yards. The mill has 5 sets of cards and 42 broad looms.

Fred A. Langewald, manufacturer of worsteds. Mr. Langewald was a former superintendent of the woolen mills of R. M. & Theodore Reynolds, and when in the settlement of their estates the several mills were sold, he purchased the straw goods factory and has converted it into a worsted mill. He already has twelve broad looms in place. His machinery is all new and up to date, and with his thorough knowledge of the business and personal supervision his success is assured. He expects to employ about forty operatives divided nearly equally between the sexes.

The Branch Mill, Leonard R. Rosenberg, proprietor. This mill, erected by Joseph L. Reynolds in 1837, has recently been purchased by Mr. Rosenberg, of Wales, who will operate it for the manufacture of friezes, meltons and repellants. Employment will be given to about 60 wage earners in the proportion of two-thirds men and one-third women. The estimated production is 200,000 yards per annum, and the annual pay roll $22,000.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY

The Congregational church was organized June 23, 1762, with a membership of twenty-four; most of whom were received by letter from the church at Brimfield. Previous to the organization services were held at the homes of the people. Shortly after

the incorporation of the town, by order of the general court, a tax of a penny an acre was laid on all the land of the town for the purpose of erecting a meeting house. The site selected for the building was on an elevation a little southwest of the present church edifice.

The same council which assisted in the organization and dedication of the church also ordained and installed as pastor Mr. Abishai Sabin, then a recent graduate of Yale college.

On November 16, 1803, in the pastorate of Rev. Jesse Ives, the second meeting house was dedicated, the former house having become unsuitable for services. This house was built on the same site, at a cost of three thousand dollars, all of which was raised by voluntary subscriptions with the exception of three hundred dollars which was given by the town.

This meeting house was used for services for sixty-eight years. It was then sold and removed, and the present commodious and attractive building was erected, and dedicated June 18, 1873. The cost of the house and furnishings was about forty thousand dollars. A total of 1,593 persons have been received into church membership since its organization. The close affiliation of the church and the academy has naturally drawn within its fellowship students representing many foreign countries. It has sent forth as christian workers and missionaries a notable company of men and women, among them Rev. James L. Merrick, eleven years a missionary in Persia; Rev. Gilbert Rockway, a missionary to the Indians; Rev. Samuel Robbins Brown, D. D., a devoted missionary for many years in China and Japan. Many others might be mentioned who have consecrated their lives to missionary work at home and abroad. A former pastor, Rev. F. S. Hatch is at present a field secretary under the auspices of the Young People's Society of Christian endeavor in India. In 1820 the Sabbath school was organized and seven years later the Ladies' praying circle was formed.

The following is a list of the ministers since the organization of the church, and the date of the installation of each: Rev. Abishai Sabin, June 23, 1763; Rev. Jesse Ives, June 23, 1772; Rev. Alfred Ely, D. D., December 17, 1806; Rev. Samuel

C. Bartlett, D. D., August 2, 1843; Rev. Charles B. Kittredge, October 21, 1846; Rev. Theron G. Colton, March 28, 1855; Rev. Charles B. Sumner, January 2, 1868; Rev. E. Hoyt Byington, D. D., June 23, 1880; Rev. F. S. Hatch, November 30, 1887; Rev. N. Miller Pratt, May 29, 1901.

The life of the church has always been active and vigorous, and during the pastorates of Dr. Ely and his immediate successors the church occupied a commanding position among the churches of the denomination in Western Massachusetts.

Methodist Episcopal Church. The introduction of Methodism into Monson was made in the summer of 1825. Horace Moulton and two other students at Monson academy, held meetings at the north and south villages, and in the fall at the center village. In November, 1825, Rev. Joel W. McKee, stationed on the Brookfield circuit, came to Monson and organized a class. This was the first organization of Methodism in town. Horace Moulton, a Methodist who afterwards joined New England conference, was made class leader, and he put all his strength and influence into the work. The rallying point was the Methodist chapel at South Monson, built in 1826. The chapel was 20x40 feet in size and cost $500. It was primitive in fashion, being unfinished, and having only rough benches for seats. It was dedicated free of debt.

In 1847-8 a new era began, for the church under the pastor's leadership secured a more permanent hold on the community. The desire for a new meeting house was being agitated, and in 1849, (Rev. Mr. Olds, pastor,) the structure was built, where it now stands, and was dedicated in October, 1850. It was enlarged to its present size in 1860.

For more than fifty years this edifice has served as the place of worship and church home for the Methodists of Monson. Many are the names of those who have gone out from the church to do noble work in life, among them being Rev. Horace Moulton, Mosely Dwight, Sela Stocking, W. A. Broman, J. W. Dadmun, M. Vinton, Francis Ward, K. D. Nettleton, Albert Squier, Henry Rogers and Henry Ward.

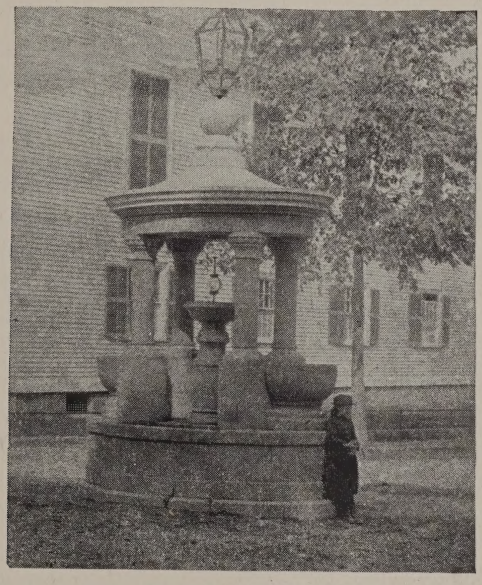
The pastors have been as follows: Joel W. McKee, 1825-26; I. Jennison, 1827-28; Horace Moulton, 1830-31; Enoch Bradly,

1832; Ebenezer F. Newell, 1833; Amasa Taylor, 1834; Horace Moulton and Geo. Green, 1835; Otis Wilder and J. O. Dean, 1836; Joseph W. Lewis, 1837-38; Charles Virgin, 1839; Wm. Gordon, 1840; Thomas Giles, 1841; David Sherman, 1842; H. S. Shedd, 1843; R. P. Buffington, 1844; Spencer Tilerton, 1845; Wm. A. Clapp and Elder Bennett, 1846; Elder Bennett, 1847; James Billings, 1848; W. B. Olds, 1849-50; John W. Dadmun, 1851-52; Chas. Noble and John Paulson, 1853; John Paulson, 1854; David K. Merrill, 1855-56; Silas Hiper, 1857; Thomas Treadwell, 1858-59; A. O. Hamilton, 1860-61; Frederick Wood, 1862-63; Hiram Satchwell, 1864-65; R. H. Howard, 1866-68; Chas. K. True, 1869; W. J. Pomfret, 1870-72; Wm. Silverthorne, 1873-74; O. W. Adams, 1875-76; Henry Lummis, 1877-78; Chas. A. Merrill, 1879-81; E. S. Best, 1882-83; A. Dight, 1884-86; John W. Emerson, 1887-88; T. C. Martin, 1889-91; Wm. H. Marble, 1892-96; A. R. Nichols, 1897-99; A. W. L. Nelson, 1900, the present pastor.

St. Patrick's Church, Roman Catholic. The first mass in Monson was said September 8, 1850, by Father Dougherty, and from that time occasional services were held until Father Healy became pastor at Ware, the parish of which included the Monson mission. Father Healy built St. Patrick's in 1863, and Bishop Williams dedicated the church in April, 1864. In 1878 Monson was made a separate parish with Rev. Jeremiah McCarthy as pastor. He was succeeded in 1881 by Father James H. Kelley, and in 1885 the latter was followed by Father John F. Lee. Rev. Thomas O'Keefe, the present pastor, was appointed to the parish in November, 1894.

First Universalist Parish. The first Universalist services were held in Central block in 1882, by Rev. W. A. Start, then state superintendent of churches, and thereafter he came, or sent a minister, on alternate Sundays. A Universalist social circle was organized at the residence of Harlow Chapin on October 5, 1882. Of this society men were made honorary members, and the present ladies' circle is an outgrowth of the original organization. On November 24, 1882, a meeting was held to organize the First Universalist parish, and Rev. Albert Ham-

matt was the first pastor, beginning his ministry in the early spring of 1883 and continuing to the summer of 1885. The Sunday school was organized informally May 20, 1883. Charles G. King, A. A. Babbitt and W. L. Ricketts have been superintendents. On Sunday, May 4, 1884, the pastor received into church fellowship forty-six persons and the first communion service was held in the evening of that same day, Rev. G. V. Maxham, of Stafford, Conn., and Rev. E. A. Perry, of Palmer, Mass., assisting in this service. The church organization was



Cushman Fountain

perfected January 13, 1886. Rev. Donald Frazer was pastor from November, 1885, to April, 1887. He was succeeded by Rev. Ira A. Priest, who had charge from September, 1887, to April, 1889. During his ministry the church building was begun. It is a fine granite structure and stands at the corner of Main and Lincoln streets. It cost $26,000. D. W. Ellis offered to and did give a dollar for every dollar the parish might raise toward the building. The edifice was dedicated Tuesday, December 3,

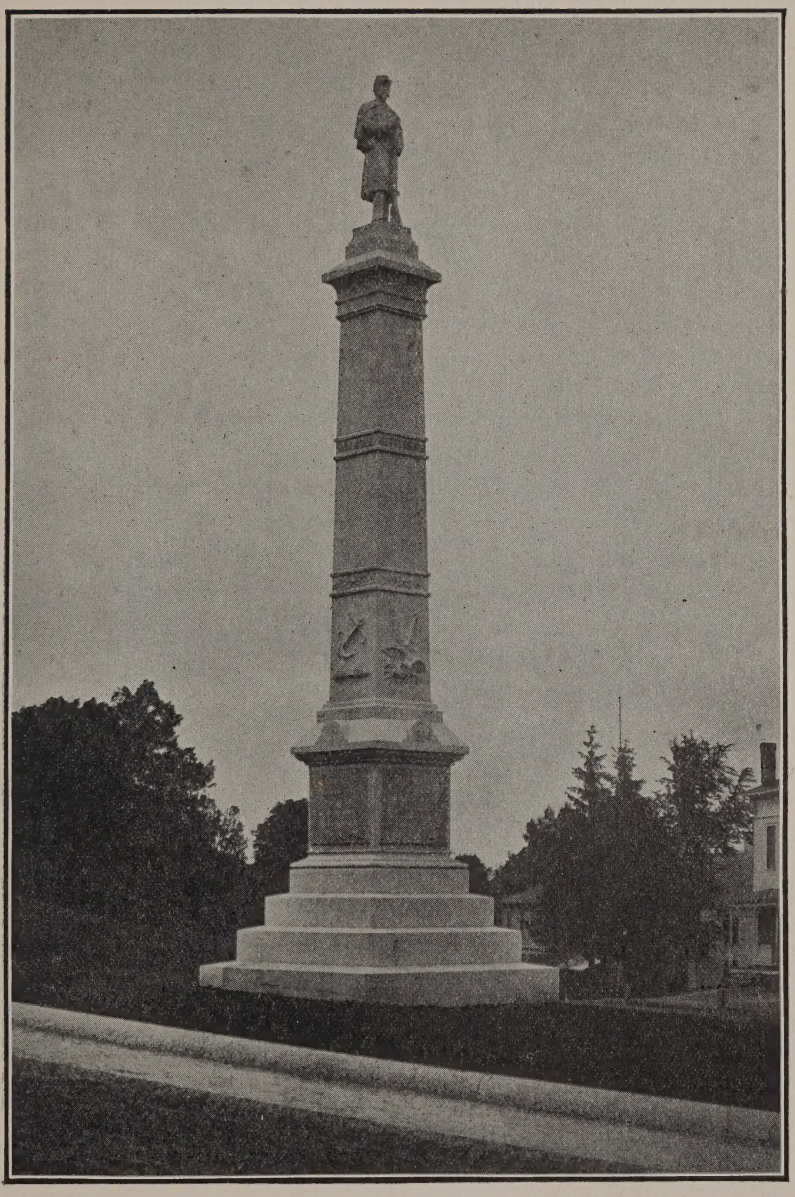
1889, a dedicatory hymn being written for the occasion by Rev. G. V. Maxham. The sermon was delivered by Rev. G. L. Perin, of Boston. Rev. Lee H. Fisher was in pastoral charge from September, 1889, to April, 1891. Rev. Harry Blackford was called to the pastorate in March, 1892, and began his work in the parish in July following. A local Young People's Christian union was organized October 26, 1892. A junior union was formed just before Mr. Blackford closed his pastorate January 31, 1899. Rev. Charles C. Conner was called in the same year.

D. W. Ellis, who died February 6, 1899, made an $18,000 bequest and also devised the parsonage property to the society. Theodore Reynolds, who died March 29, 1900, left $5,000 to the society.

Cemeteries of Monson. The cemeteries of Monson are under the care of a board of cemetery commissioners consisting of three members, one of which is elected annually to serve for three years. The revenue to pay the running expenses is derived from three sources: annual town appropriation, income from the permanent fund which now is $6,912 and the charge to lot owners for yearly care.

The first cemetery was laid out and accepted by the town May 13, 1762. It consisted of two acres of land which was to include the grave of Capt. Hitchcock's daughter. It was located west of Joseph Hitchcock's land and east of the present Pearl street. The first man buried therein was Capt. David Hitchcock and his interment was prior to August 16 of the same year. Cemeteries were early located in Butler, Moulton Hill, Grout, Gage and Colton Hollow districts, and all are still in use. There is a small cemetery on the east side of Main street opposite of the Lyon residence which is not open to the public. On the west side of Main street, opposite Ralph Clifford's residence, is a public cemetery laid out in 1780.

The cemetery now in use in the center of the town was laid out in 1842 and with later additions now extends from Mill to Thompson street and from North Main nearly to Mechanic street. It contains about 9 acres of land. The first interment in this cemetery was that of a child of Dr. Alvin Smith and the



Soldiers' Monument, Monson

second that of Benjamin Fuller, these both in 1842. This cemetery has been enlarged four times, once to the west and thrice to the east. The last and most important addition was that to the east, known as the Thompson addition. This will now soon be in use. The grounds have been graded, the roads made and the ground plotted and laid out in lots and only waits for the landscape artist to place the boundary pins of the several lots. It is approached from North Main street through a beautiful granite arch which was erected and presented to the town as was also the retaining walls on the east and south by Mrs. Harlan Page of Germantown, Pa.

On the west side of Pearl street and opposite the first cemetery of Monson the Catholics have established their cemetery, and they have introduced water and the past season have done much to make it attractive. The cemetery commissioners are Dr. G. E. Fuller, Carlos L. Peck and Frank E. Morris.

TOWN CIVIL LIST

Selectmen. The office of selectman in Monson has been held by these persons: James Merrick, Samuel King, Joshua Shaw, Francis Sikes, Joseph Colton, Joseph Craft, Jabez Keep, Aaron Merrick, Freeborn Moulton, Nathaniel Sikes, Nicholas Graves, Noah Sabin, Simeon Keep, Abijah Newell, Benj. Munn, Abel Goodell, Jonathan Chapin, Reuben Munn, Thomas Anderson, Richard Bishop, David Hyde, Joshua Fuller, Abner Brown, Caleb Keep, Gad Colton,, Asa Gates, Israel Bennett, David L. Shields, Asa White, Richard Gardner, Jeremy Munn, Royal Merrick, Absalom Shaw, Benj. Fuller, Stephen Warriner, Ede. Whittaker, Stephen Newton, Abijah Newton, Jesse Ives, Job Puffer, Abraham Haskell, Luther Carter, Simeon Colton, Joel Norcross, Henry G. Cady, Jonathan Torrey, John Hoar, Simeon Keep, Jr., Rice Munn, Abner Bennett, Abel Calkins, Austin Fuller, Charles P. Fay, Welcome Converse, Abial Dean, Walter Smith, Watson Merrick, Charles Carpenter, Jr., David H. Childs, Obed M. Ward, John P. Cady, Lucius F. Newton, Carlton Squier, Stephen Tobey, Eldridge Phillips, Wm. Puffer, Joseph L. Reynolds, Hiram Newton, Alden Blodgett, Arial Rogers, War-

ren Fuller, Phillip Gage, Esbon White, Rice S. Munn, Cyrus Truesdell, Dwight King, Albert M. Phillips, Rufus M. Pease, Daniel G. Potter, Rufus F. Fay, Welcome Converse, Jr., Daniel G. Green, Daniel Foskit, Marcus F. Beebe, Wm. H. Bradway, Albert Norcross, Gideon Fay, John Newton, Daniel Carpenter, Eleazer Walker, E. W. Sholes, Nelson F. Rogers, Joseph B. Foster, Calvin S. Pease, C. C. Tobey, Horace Squier, Joshua Tracy, Austin King, Alanson N. Chaffee, Alfred Norcross, Rice M. Reynolds, Charles Fowler, Carlos L. Peck, Solomon F. Cush-

The road to Wales—South Monson

The old Ormsby house

man, Rufus Flynt, Alvin A. Gage, George L. Topliffe, Frank H. King, George H. Newton, Wm. J. Ricketts, John Leahy, Arthur D. Norcross, Capt. G. H. Foskit, Ralph Clifford, Wm. H. Bugbee, Orrin C. McCray, Herbert M. Smith and Horace D. Moulton.

Town Clerks. Samuel King, Joseph Craft, Aaron Merrick, Reuben Munn, Jose Merrick, Abel Goodell, Daniel Jaynes, David Hyde, Ephraim Allen, Asa Gates, Daniel L. Shields, Ede. Whit-

taker, Deodatus Dutton, Oliver McKinstry, Hiram Newton, Henry Cady, Albert Norcross, Wm. N. Packard, Daniel D. Moody, Austin Fuller, Nelson F. Rogers, George F. Morris, Edward F. Morris, E. B. Miles, George H. Newton, E. E. Towne, Alvin A. Gage, Carlos M. Gage and Carlos L. Peck.

Representatives to the General Court. Abel Goodell, 1781 to 1784; 1788, 1798 and 1809; Reuben Munn, 1785, 1787, 1792 and 3; Joshua Shaw, 1787, 1789 and 1791; David Hyde, 1791 and 3; Caleb Keep, 1796; Abner Brown, 1810 and 11; Absalom Shaw, 1810; Dr. Ede Whittaker, 1811 and 12, and Stephen Warriner, 1812. For representatives in later years see county civil list.

CHAPTER VIII

THE TOWN OF LUDLOW

The town of Ludlow lies on the north line of Hampden county, and was originally a portion of the Springfield grant. It is bounded on the north by the towns of Granby and Belchertown, in Hampshire county, east by Belchertown, south by Wilbraham and Springfield, from which it is separated by the Chicopee river, and west by Chicopee. The southern line is very irregular, being formed by the Chicopee river, but the east and north lines are straight, as is the western with the exception of a single break or "jog" of about one-fourth mile in the division line between Ludlow and Chicopee. In area the town covers about twenty-eight squares miles, or 17,280 acres.

The surface of the town is comparatively level or rolling, with some hilly sections, though nowhere attaining to high altitudes. The most prominent elevations are those in the northern portion of the town, known as "Facing Hill". Some distance to the south is an isolated hill known as "Jefferson's Peak"; while "Minnechaug Mountain" rises in the southeastern quarter of the town. Several small ponds are scattered in different localities, and the town also contains the principal reservoir from

Ludlow Reservoir

which is drawn the water supply for the city of Springfield. This reservoir, located in what was formerly known as Cherry Valley, was constructed in 1873-4, and covers 445 acres, with a marginal area of 350 acres more. Three natural streams, Broad brook, Jabish brook and Higher brook, have been diverted to feed this body of water, in addition to the large natural water shed.

Another natural feature of interest is a peninsula of several acres formed by an abrupt bend of the Chicopee river, below the falls of Wallamanumps. This peninsula is about eighty feet in height, and is largely composed of red sandstone, much of which has been quarried for commercial uses, though enough still remains to show the original ruggedness of the promontory. This is one of the numerous rocky heights in the country known as "Indian Leap," from some tradition connected with the locality . A party of Indians, driven by their enemies into this retreat, and finding all means of escape cut off, are said to have sprung from the high rocks into the raging river below, where they were dashed to death in a moment. It was certainly here that the King Philip's warriors bivouacked, some six hundred in number, on the night of their retreat after burning Springfield in 1675, as the remains of twenty-four campfires and some of the plunder taken from the looted settlement were found there next day by the pursuers.

Doubtless the Ludlow territory was familiar ground to the aboriginal tribes, as many evidences of their occupation have been discovered within the town limits from time to time, while the entire region along the Chicopee river was a favorite hunting ground of the red men, even after the white settlements had reached importance in the neighboring regions. Their name for a large part of Ludlow and neighboring regions, "Minnechaug", or berry-land, indicates their familiarity with the natural products of the locality. Tradition also attaches a tragic incident to one of the precipices at Facing hills, where a white woman who had been captured at one of the settlements not far away was cruelly put to death to give the Indians better opportunity to escape their pursuers.

The first steps toward the settlement of any portion of what is now Ludlow were taken in 1685, when it was felt that there

was danger of the undivided lands, or "outward commons", as they were called, being restored to the English crown. Reservations were made for the ministry and for schools, after which the Ludlow territory was divided among nineteen proprietors, none of whom made any settlement upon the lands thus received. In fact, it was not until about 1750, more than sixty years later, that any of the Springfield people ventured so far in that direction into what was then little better than a wilderness. The families of Aaron Colton, James Sheldon, Shem Chapin, and Benjamin Sikes were the first to settle in the territory north of the Chicopee river east of what is now Chicopee. They were from Springfield, and Captain Joseph Miller of West Springfield followed them in 1751. It is recorded that his friends mourned him as one dead, and that a funeral sermon was preached on account of the removal of his family to so remote and wild a place. Ebenezer Barber joined the colony in 1756, and Jonathan Lumbard the following year; but no other settlers seem to have ventured into the territory for ten years.

After that time, however, the development was comparatively rapid, so that in 1774 we find the settlement with a population of some 200 petitioning for an independent organization. This petition was received by the royal governor, Thomas Hutchinson, and referred to the general court, by whom the petition was granted. An act was passed in February of that year, and approved by the governor on the 28th of the month, setting apart that portion of the township of Springfield known as "Stony Hill", and creating it a separate district under the name of Ludlow, with all the powers and privileges pertaining to towns in the province with the exception of sending a representative to the general assembly. It was ten years later before the new town reached the dignity of a representative all its own.

The boundaries of the district were thus officially defined: "Southerly on Chicabee river; east on the east line of said Springfield and the west line of Belchertown; northerly on the north line of said Springfield, or partly on Belchertown and partly on Granby, and extending westward so far as to include all that part of the outward commons, so called, that lies in the

northeast corner of the township of Springfield, and extending also in a line parallel with the west line of said outward commons one mile and three-quarters farther west, into the inward commons, so called, in said Springfield, north of Chicabee river''. Provision was also made for including the farms of Zachariah Warner, senior and junior, Oliver Chapin and Ezekiel Squires, at ''the mill privilege.''

For the first meeting of the legal voters of the new district a warrant was issued by ''the Honorable John Worthington,'' directed ''to some principal inhabitant,'' instructing them to gather at the house of Abner Hitchcock. The meeting convened there March 16, 1774, and Moses Bliss of Springfield was chosen moderator, after which the following Ludlow men where elected as the first officers of the new town: Clerk, Benajah Willey; selectmen, Aaron Ferry, Abner Sikes and Joseph Miller; wardens, Joshua Fuller and Jacob Kendall; assessors, Joseph Jones, John Hubbard, Jr., and Joseph Hitchcock; constables, John Sikes and Jacob Cooley; treasurer, Joseph Miller; surveyors, Beriah Jennings, Joel Willey and Noah Bowker, tithingmen, James Chapin and Oliver Chapin; fence-viewers, Israel Warriner and Isaac Brewer; hog-reeves, Isaac Warriner and Ezra Parsons; deer-reeves, Ezekiel Squires, Aaron Colton and Jonathan Lombard.

The full list of selectmen and town clerks from the organization of the town to the present time, and of the representatives to the ''Great and General Court'' to 1812, when the district system was adopted, is as follows:

Selectmen.—1774-5, Aaron Ferry, Abner Sikes, Joseph Miller; 1776, Joseph Miller, Joseph Hitchcock, Joshua Fuller; 1777, Joseph Hitchcock, John Hubbard, Jr., Benajah Willey; 1778, no record; 1779, John Hubbard, Jr., Jonathan Bartlett, John Sikes; 1780, Moses Wilder, Timothy Keyes, Jeremiah Dutton; 1781, Joseph Miller, Joshua Fuller, Jonathan Bartlett, James Kendall, Isaac Brewer; 1782, Jonathan Bartlett, Joel Nash, Israel Warriner; 1783, Joel Nash, Israel Warriner, James Kendall; 1784, Joel Nash, Israel Warriner, Abner Sikes; 1785, Abner Sikes, James Kendall, Samuel Arnold; 1786, Abner Sikes,

Israel Warriner, David Lyon; 1787, Abner Sikes, Isaac Brewer, Joseph Miller; 1788, Abner Sikes, Israel Warriner, Joel Nash; 1789, Abner Sikes, Israel Warriner, Joel Nash; 1790, Abner Sikes, Israel Warriner, Jonathan Burr; 1791, Abner Sikes, Jonathan Burr, David Lyon; 1792, Abner Sikes, Jonathan Burr, Joseph Miller, Samuel Frost, Francis Percival; 1793, Abner Sikes, Francis Percival, John Sikes; 1794, Francis Percival, Aaron Colton, Samuel Frost; 1795, Aaron Colton, Ephraim Chapin, Benjamin Sikes, Jr.; 1796, Aaron Colton, Benjamin Sikes, Jr., Pliny Sikes; 1797, Benjamin Sikes, Jr., Francis Percival, Joseph Miller, Jr.; 1798, Timothy Keyes, Jonathan Burr, Samuel Frost, Eli Putnam, Ephraim Chapin; 1799, Jonathan Burr, Samuel Frost, Benjamin Sikes, Jr.; 1800, Jonathan Burr, Benjamin Sikes, Jr., Samuel Frost; 1801-2, Jonathan Burr, Benjamin Sikes, Jr., Joseph Munger; 1803, Jonathan Burr, Benjamin Sikes, Jr., Sherwood Beebe; 1804, Sherwood Beebe, Job Pease, Timothy Nash; 1805-7, Sherwood Beebe, Timothy Nash, Jonathan Sikes; 1808, Timothy Nash, Jonathan Sikes, Gad Lyon; 1809, Timothy Nash, Ezekiel Fuller, Gates Willey; 1810, Timothy Nash, Gates Willey, Joseph Miller; 1811, Timothy Nash, Gates Willey, Joshua Fuller; 1812, Benjamin Sikes, Sherwood Beebe, Gad Lyon; 1813, Timothy Nash, Joshua Fuller, Daniel Sprague; 1814, Timothy Nash, Joshua Fuller, Daniel Sprague; 1815, Timothy Nash, Joshua Fuller, Titus Hubbard; 1816, Gates Willey, Nathaniel Lyon, James Sheldon; 1817, Gates Willey, Ashbel Burr, Joshua Fuller; 1818, Gates Willey, Ashbel Burr, John Dorman; 1819-22, Ashbel Burr, John Dorman, Timothy Nash; 1823, Ashbel Burr, John Dorman, Elias Frost; 1824-5, Ashbel Burr, John Dorman, Asahel Rood; 1826, Elias Frost, Gordon B. Miller, Theodore Sikes; 1827-9, Ashbel Burr, Theodore Sikes, Asahel Rood; 1830, John Dorman, Gordon B. Miller, Elam Wright; 1831, John Dorman, Gordon B. Miller, Ashbel Burr; 1832, Gordon B. Miller, John Town, Jr., John Gates; 1833-4, Ashbel Burr, Chester Sikes, William Ray; 1835, Chester Sikes, William Ray, John Gates; 1836-8, Elias Frost, John Gates, Waterman Fuller; 1839, William Ray, Chester Sikes, Dan Hubbard; 1840, William Ray, Chester Sikes, Dan

Hubbard; 1841, Chester Sikes, Dan Hubbard, Daniel King; 1842, William Ray, John Gates, Artemas H. Whitney; 1843, William Ray, Artemas H. Whitney, Edmund W. Fuller; 1844, William Ray, Artemas H. Whitney, Edmund W. Fuller; 1845, William Ray, Artemas H. Whitney, John Miller; 1846, Elijah Plumley, John Miller, David Lyon; 1847, John Miller, David Lyon, Chester Sikes; 1848, Alva Sikes, Elisha T. Parsons, Jerre Miller; 1849, Alva Sikes, Elisha T. Parsons, Jerre Miller; 1850-52, Jerre Miller, Artemas H. Whitney, Henry Fuller; 1853, William Ray, Willis Keyes, Elijah Plumley; 1854, Elijah Plumley, Homer Lyon, Aaron Davis; 1855, John Miller, Dan Hubbard, Aaron Davis; 1856, Artemas H. Whitney, John Miller, Seth J. Bennett; 1857, Artemas H. Whitney, John Miller, Simeon Jones; 1858, Artemas H. Whitney, Simeon Jones, Elijah G. Fuller; 1859, Artemas H. Whitney, Benjamin Sikes, Gilbert Fuller; 1859, Artimas H. Whitney, Benjamin Sikes, Gilbert Fuller; 1860, Benjamin Sikes, William Ray, Roderick Collins; 1861, Benjamin Sikes, Roderick Collins, Dan Hubbard; 1862-3, Benjamin Sikes, Roderick Collins, Gilbert E. Fuller; 1864, Artemas H. Whitney, Jacob S. Eaton, Francis F. McLean; 1865, Jacob S. Eaton, Francis F. McLean, Henry Charles; 1866, Francis F. McLean, John P. Hubbard, Samuel White; 1867, John P. Hubbard, Samuel White, Eli M. Smith; 1868-9, Samuel White, Eli M. Smith, Benjamin Sikes; 1870-72, Samuel White, Gilbert E. Fuller, Reuben Sikes; 1873, Samuel White, John Ray, Chauncey L. Buell; 1874-5, Samuel White, John Ray, David C. Jones; 1876-7, John Ray, David C. Jones, Ambrose Clough; 1878, David C. Jones, Ambrose Clough, Edward E. Fuller; 1879-80, Edward E. Fuller, George R. Clark, Jackson Cady; 1881, George R. Clark, David Joy, Jacob S. Eaton; 1882-5, Benjamin F. Burr, Charles F. Grosvenor, Franklin Bramble; 1886-8, Edward E. Fuller, James M. White, George D. Green; 1889-91, Benjamin F. Burr, Austin F. Nash, Frank A. Towne; 1892-8, Edward E. Fuller, John W. Hubbard, Frank A. Towne; 1899-1901, Edward E. Fuller, John W. Hubbard, Frederick L. Burr.

Town Clerks.—1774-5, Benajah Willey; 1776-9, Jeremiah Dutton; 1780-82, Aaron J. Miller; 1783-5, Samuel Arnold; 1786,

Elisha Fuller; 1787, Solomon L. Fuller; 1788, Samuel Arnold; 1789-92, John Jennings; 1793, Plynn Sikes; 1794-6, John Jennings; 1797, Plynn Sikes; 1798-9, John Jennings; 1800-08, Increase Sikes; 1809-29, Ely Fuller; 1830, Theodore Sikes; 1831, Ely Fuller; 1832, Washington B. Alden; 1833-5, Theodore Sikes; 1836-8, Washington B. Alden; 1839-41, Theodore Sikes; 1842, Samuel S. Bucklin; 1843-5, Dennis Knowlton; 1846-54, John P. Hubbard; 1855, George Booth; 1856-61, John P. Hubbard; 1862-3, Albert Fuller; 1864, John P. Hubbard; 1865, George E. Root; 1866-78, Benjamin F. Burr; 1879-88, Warren D. Fuller; 1889-1901, Alfred H. Bartlett.

Representatives.—1784-5, Capt. Joseph Miller; 1787, John Jennings; 1800, Elisha Fuller; 1801-2, Aaron J. Miller; 1806, Gad Lyon; 1807, Increase Sikes; 1808, Gad Lyon; 1809, John Jennings; 1810, Gad Lyon; 1811, Sherwood Beebe; 1812, Ely Fuller.

The full list of town officers for the year 1901 is as follows: Town clerk, Alfred H. Bartlett; selectmen, overseers of the poor and board of health, Edward E. Fuller, Benjamin F. Burr, John W. Hubbard; auditors, Charles S. Browning, Charles W. Gowen; treasurer and collector, Alfred H. Bartlett; assessors, George D. Green, Arthur D. King, Charles P. Jones; constables, Hall E. Storer, Albert Wilson, David Trombley; highway surveyor, Henry A. Munsing; cemetery commissioners, Robert Kyle, Edward E. Fuller, Benjamin F. Burr; school committee, Albert H. Halford, Charles B. Bennett, Irene T. Jones, Charles N. Wrightington; superintendent of schools, Mary L. Poland of Springfield, Mass.

The patriotic sentiment of the town has been strong and uncompromising in all important epochs of the country's history since the birth of the nation in 1775. In fact, at the time Ludlow was organized as an independent district, the coming of the terrible revolutionary struggle was already casting its shadow before, and filling the minds of the people with apprehension. During the year of organization—1774—Capt. Joseph Miller was selected to represent the infant community in the councils of the province, which were held in conventions at Concord,

Salem, Cambridge and Watertown. There can be no question of the firmness and earnestness of his position in advocacy of those great principles which eventually gave to the world a new and powerful nation. In the long and exhausting warfare which followed, the town responded nobly to all demands, whether for the furnishing of soldiers or the contribution of material aid for the support and comfort of those in the field. When the war closed, it appeared that one in every seven of the inhabitants of Ludlow had served in the Continental armies, the imperishable roll of honor comprising the following names:

Ichabod Barker, Ezekiel Beebe, Cæsar Begory, Noadiah Burr, Reuben Burt, Joel Chapin, Charles Chorley, Aaron Colton, Solomon Cooley, Edward Cotton, Oliver Dutton, Ezekiel Fuller, Lothrop Fuller, Jabez Goodale, Joseph Hitchcock, Joseph Jennings, John Johnson, David Lombard, Jonathan Lombard, Dr. Aaron J. Miller, George Miller, Jr., Leonard Miller, David Paine, Tyrus Pratt, Samuel Scranton, Thomas Temple, Moses Wilder, Cyprian Wright.

In the Shays rebellion which occurred in the unsettled period between the close of the revolutionary war and the adoption of the federal constitution, the sentiment of Ludlow, in common with that in other towns in the vicinity, was divided, and recruits were furnished to both parties, in perhaps nearly equal numbers. The column of insurgents which demonstrated against Springfield, receiving the fire of the government soldiers, made its advance and retreat through Ludlow, and one man from that town—Isaiah Call—was killed in South Hadley by a stray shot from a house which the soldiers were passing.

In the war of 1812-15, Ludlow, unlike many of the New England towns, does not appeared to have entered any protest, but furnished its quota of soldiers with unquestioning loyalty, thirteen men from the town having been enrolled, these being their names:

Henry Acres, Gideon Cotton, Samuel Gates, Chester Kendall, Amos Root, Charles F. Wood, Benjamin Ainsworth, Lemuel Gardiner, John Howard, Reuben Parsons, Veranus Shattuck, Gordon B. Wood, Harvey Wood.

The Mexican war, which drew but very lightly from New England, took one man—Joseph Rood—from Ludlow, and he was reported wounded in one of the engagements in which he participated.

The war of the rebellion, 1861-5, found strong and brave hearts in Ludlow, and there was no faltering during the four years of terrible war and sacrifice. Out of a population of 1,200, the town furnished 120 soldiers; probably quite as large a proportion of the adult males as entered the service in the revolu-

Soldiers' Monument—Ludlow

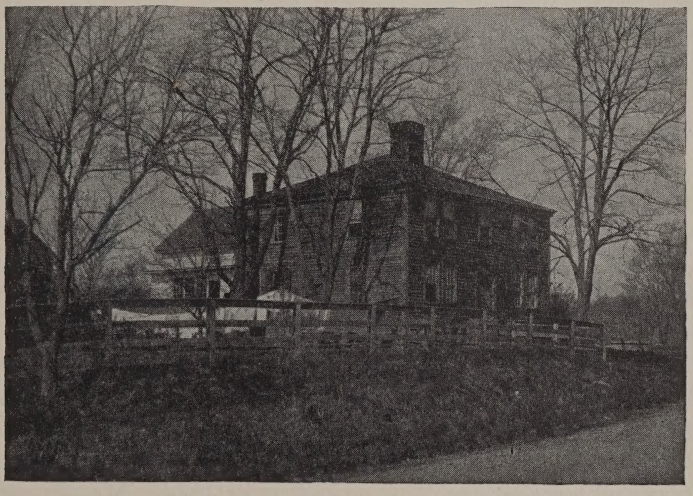
tionary war, of twice as great duration. Of the 120 men from Ludlow in the union armies, sixteen gave their lives—a percentage considerably above the average. In addition to furnishing more than its quota of soldiers, the town met all the financial requirements of the period with unfaltering devotion. As early as April, 1861, a vote was taken in town meeting appropriating $2,000 as a bounty fund for the promotion of enlistments, and in August, 1862, a bounty of $100 each was voted to the men

who enlisted upon the town's quota at that time. This spirit of liberality continued during the war, and the people of the town did their full part in connection with all measures for the relief and care of needy soldiers and the families of those absent in their country's service. After the close of the war measures were taken for the erection of an appropriate monument in memory of the town's fallen heroes and a chaste memorial of Monson granite, located near the Congregational church at Ludlow Center, was dedicated with appropriate exercises during the summer of 1867. The total cost of the monument was $1,025, and it still stands as a fitting embodiment of the patriotic spirit of those trying days.

The early settlers of Ludlow were almost entirely farmers, and there are indications and traditions that the native Indians, or perhaps other and earlier residents, of whom we have not even the legacy of tradition, gave some attention to cultivation of the soil. The remains of rude implements of stone, probably designed for agricultural or domestic use, have been frequently found within the town limits, and it is certain that both before and after the settlement of Springfield by white men the present town of Ludlow was a favorite resort for the red men. While its forests abounded with game, it is probable that the more fertile bits of land along the Chicopee river were rudely tilled by the aborigines. Probably attention was drawn to the location through reports of the Indian operations along the river; but the early settlers did not find an exceptionally rich field; as is shown by the familiar name of "Stony Hill," doubtless first applied to a distinct elevation, but later adopted to indicate the entire settlement, and in that sense used until the organization of a separate town.

It is recorded of some of these settlers that, while they held title to extensive tracts of land, they were still regarded as poor men, and in fact were obliged to practice a rigid exercise of economy in order to secure an adequate living from their acres. And this has largely been the fortune of their descendants and others who have since relied upon agriculture alone—the requirements have been plenty of hard work, careful management

and thrift, in order that satisfactory returns might be secured from the soil. Yet there is no doubt that the qualities thus engendered proved in many instances a more valuable heritage to the sons of the town's founders than would have been any legacy of great wealth. Into the broad field of the world's strife these men went with an equipment of energy, industry and frugality which enabled them to meet and overcome obstacles, and win a victor's reward. At the present time there is much more encouragement for the Ludlow farmer, owing to the nearness of village and city markets to which his produce can be profitably delivered.



Old fashioned Ludlow Mansion

As in the case of most other towns of that period, the first manufacturing establishments were those devoted to wood working—generally saw mills of rude construction and limited capacity. Several of these were established in different parts of the town, where a water privilege could be secured at a minimum of labor and expense. Soon after 1800, Rufus Calkins conducted a chair shop on Higher brook, and while the quantity of his product was not large, its quality is shown in the fact that chairs made by him are still treasured in the town in collections

of antique furniture. He also did a limited amount of spinning of flax and wool, both of which were produced on the farms of the town. Alden's sash and blind shop on Broad brook was for a time one of the noted manufacturing industries of the town. Later it turned out rakes and other agricultural implements. Tar and potash were produced at various places in the town at different times, and much more widely interesting were the Ludlow glass works, a mile north of the Center, where green glass, in bottles and other forms, was made for some few years. Two or three small manufactories of woolen goods were in operations in different parts of the town, and had considerable local reputation. Ludlow City also, at one time, boasted a distillery.

At the falls of Wallamanumps, destined to eclipse all other privileges in the town, business did not begin in earnest until the year 1800 or a little later. Previous to this time a dam had been constructed there, and probably something in the way of a saw mill had been run there, but near the close of the eighteenth century only one man lived in all that section. Attracted by the water power, Abner Putnam came from the eastern part of the state and erected a shop for the manufacture of scythes. The business proved successful, the goods made won a high reputation, and the industry was continued for some ten years or more. In 1812 the rights at Wallamanumps were sold by Sylvester Moody, Abner Putnam and Levi Pease to Benjamin Jencks of Smithfield, R. I., who, with Washington Jencks, Joseph Bucklin, George Wilkinson and Stephen H. Smith, organized the Springfield Manufacturing company in 1814. Mr. Smith soon disposed of his interest to Samuel Slater, who later became so widely known as a manufacturer of cotton goods. The company at one time owned no less than 1,200 acres of land, and the settlement which at once sprung up was known as Jencksville—a name retained by that portion of the town for much more than half a century.

The business was begun in a modest way in a wooden building on the site of the later mills, but consisted only of the preparation of warps and yarns, which were woven into cloth on hand looms by the families round about. The formal organiza-

tion of the company did not take place until 1821, when work was begun on the stone buildings designed as a permanent plant. The first, 103 by 36 feet, was completed in 1822, and looms were put in operation the next year. In 1826 another mill building, forty feet west of the first, was erected. This was somewhat larger, being 40 by 115 feet. Both of the mills were carefully built, and were considered model structures. It is interesting to know that the machinery was made in the mills, the lower stories being used as machine shops. The company manufactured cotton goods only, the product being principally sheetings. In 1833 the factories were enlarged by an extension to the eastward, and eleven years later the space between the two buildings was closed in, making a continuous mill about 325 feet in length. Meantime, in 1840 a building had been erected at the "upper privilege," which was for six years devoted to the manufacture of gun barrels for the United States government. At the end of that time it was changed to a cotton mill. As showing the custom of the times, it may be mentioned that each of these buildings and additions, when completed, was dedicated with religious exercises.

Thus far the company had apparently been prosperous, its business had grown to large proportions, and it enjoyed the confidence of the community in a marked degree. The townspeople were glad to loan their money to the corporation, and there was no hesitation in the acceptance of notes when the company preferred to pay in that way rather than in cash. It was a sad disaster to the town, therefore, when in 1848 the Springfield Manufacturing company was declared insolvent and went out of business. The property passed into the hands of Wood & Merritt, a New York city firm, by whom it was managed until 1856. It was for a number of years leased to George H. Deane, by whom the stone mills were fitted up for the manufacture of jute goods, while the building at the upper privilege was used for the manufacture of wadding. At the expiration of the lease Mr. Deane purchased the property and organized the Ludlow Mills company. The present Ludlow Manufacturing company was organized in 1868, and for thirty-three years has carried on the manu-

facture of jute goods, twine, bagging, etc., with unvarying success.

The business of the company, in a large measure, has been the life of the town during these years. With the development of the industry new mills have been built from time to time, what is known as Mill No. 4, having been erected in 1878. It was ten years later that No. 5 mill was built, in 1888; but since that time great and frequent additions have been made to the company's plant. No. 6 mill was built in 1889, and two years later the original No. 2 mill was razed and a fine brick structure was erected in its place. In the fall of 1894 work was begun on Mill No. 7, known as "the new shop," and in 1895 the remaining stone mill No. 1, was replaced with a modern brick building. No. 8 mill was built in 1901, giving the company a fine plant of eight brick mill buildings, modern in construction, fitted with improved machinery, and forming altogether a very complete and expensive establishment. These buildings are supplemented by an office building, well appointed, constructed in 1900. In June of the same year work was begun on a fine dam across the Chicopee river at Red Bridge, which was completed sixteen months later, giving the company a fine addition to its water power. This dam is 300 feet in length, and rises to a height of 47 feet above the bed of the river.

But while the company has been thus prospering and enlarging its capacity, it has not been indifferent to the higher welfare of the community nestling in the vicinity of its factories, as will be evidenced by a brief *résumé* of the important measures with which it has been identified. One of the first movements to attract attention was that for the establishment of an orphan boys' school, in 1881. About the same time, or even earlier, two or three extra rooms in the company's buildings were fitted up and set apart for school purposes, until such time as a school house should be built; this result being attained in 1882, when "the Ludlow Manufacturing company" school house was erected, giving temporary accommodation to the children of "Jencksville." In 1885 a music teacher was provided for the village schools; in 1886 a sewing-school was established, and 1887 a

cooking school. The latter movement is being supplemented at the present time by the preparation of beautiful and convenient rooms, provided with a competent instructor, where lectures on hygiene and a cooking-school will be maintained for the benefit of the women employed by the company, as well as of others interested in the subject matter.

In 1888 a savings bank was incorporated in the interest of the employes of the company's mills primarily, though not exclusively for their benefit. This bank is open daily as well as

Hubbard Memorial Library

two evenings each week, and has at present approximately $125,000 in deposits. George D. Green is the president, and George A, Birnie, treasurer.

A Masonic Hall was built in 1892.

The Hubbard Memorial Library building delightfully situated at the junction of North and East streets, opposite the company's office, is one of the town's most attractive structures. It was erected in 1889, and in the spring of the following year was presented to the town by the widow and children

of Charles T. Hubbard, for many years the treasurer and guiding spirit of the Ludlow Manufacturing company. The movement of which this fine building of brick and red sandstones is the logical outcome was inaugurated by the company in 1881, under the direction of Mr. Hubbard, when a small library, with reading room and social room in connection, was opened in "the old Tavern house," for the benefit of the employes. At its beginning the library consisted of about 400 volumes while the reading room boasted a half-dozen magazines. Now, in its elegant new home, the library consists of about 5,000 well-selected volumes, while the reading room is supplied with all the leading and popular magazines of the day.

The Ludlow Manufacturing company is capitalized at $750,000, and the officers (1901) are as follows: President, R. H. Weld; treasurer, Charles W. Hubbard; selling agent, Cranmore N. Wallace, all of Boston. John E. Stevens of Ludlow is the company's resident agent.

The Ludlow Cordage company, a separate branch of the business, was incorporated in 1893 with a capital stock of $100,000, and is officered by Edward Brooks as president, and Cranmore N. Wallace as treasurer and selling agent, the offices being at Boston. The product of the company is manila and binders' twine.

During the eighteenth century the organization of a new town or independent district meant the establishment of an orthodox church as the first indispensable feature of town life—if the church had not preceded the independence of the municipality, as was often the case. The history of Ludlow forms no exception to the general rule, and we find that the first action taken in town (then district) meeting, after that of organization, was the appointment of a committee "to hire Mr. Pelatiah Chapin." Mr. Chapin was a preacher, and the committee were successful in engaging his services. Such meetings as were held must for some years have been conducted at the houses of the settlers. At the same time a committee was appointed to locate the center of the town, in order that the site might be set apart for the erection of a church. Here began the series of discourag-

Ludlow Hotel and Street View

ing experiences which for some decades were to make the religious life of the town anything but a pleasant and successful experience. The committee was unable to carry out its task and was discharged by vote of the town. A second committee, comprising some of the original members, was more successful; but the exact center of the town, when located, is said to have occupied a swamp, rendering it unvailable for the desired purpose. The location was accordingly varied sufficiently to give a desirable site. The village which subsequently grew up about the chosen spot has very appropriately retained to the present time the name of Ludlow Center.

During the war of the revolution there was little opportunity to engage in even so laudable an undertaking as the building of a meeting-house; but after the close of the war in 1783, we find the town voting on the 23d of October that "the building committee procure a sufficient quantity of rum for raising the meeting-house frame." In a little less than a year the structure was sufficiently advanced to shelter a town meeting, but it was a rude affair, with only rough boards on the sides, and without floors, doors or windows. It appears to have been as late as 1797 before these deficiencies were fully supplied. The house as finally completed was used until 1840, when a second church was built, but was destroyed by fire in 1859. During the latter year the present church edifice was erected, supplemented a little later by the neat chapel standing nearly opposite.

But if the matter of securing a suitable building languished in the early years of the town, the settling of satisfactory pastors was an even more difficult problem. No permanent settlement was made until 1793, though several clergymen "supplied" during the time, the records showing such service by Rev. Pelatiah Chapin, Rev. Mr. Davenport, Rev. M. Hutchings, Rev. David Haskell (called to become regular pastor but declined), Rev. Stephen Fuller, Rev. Allen Pratt, Rev. William Stone, and Rev. Aaron Woodward. On June 1, 1793, the town voted to call Rev. Antipas Steward, a graduate of Harvard, and in November following he was ordained as the first settled pastor of the town. His compensation was fixed at £60 and thirty cords of wood annually.

The pastorate was continued for ten years, but it was not successful, serious dissensions marking its later portion. Mr. Steward was dismissed in 1803, and then followed sixteen years of unsettled condition. During much of this time clergymen from other denominations occupied the pulpit. Rev. Laban Thurber, a Baptist, supplied the church during 1805 and 1806, and Rev. Abner Phelps in 1808. Then came two Methodist clergymen—Rev. Elijah Hedding, a presiding elder, in 1811, and Rev. Alexander McLean from 1813 to 1816. Denominational interests then asserted themselves, and the subsequent pastors have been of the Congregational faith, their names and periods of service having been as follows: Rev. Ebenezer Burt Wright, 1819-35; Rev. David R. Austin, associate and full pastor, 1833-35; Rev. Alonzo Sanderson, 1839-43; Rev. Jeremy W. Tuck, 1843-59; Rev. Warren Mayo, 1860-62; Rev. Chester Bridgman, 1864-6; Rev. Chester L. Cushman, 1866-74; Rev. Samuel V. McDuffee. 1875-82; Rev. Myron P. Dickey, 1883-92; Rev. Edward P. Allen, 1893-4; Rev. Everett D. Francis, 1895, the present pastor.

From the fact that Methodist clergymen supplied the pulpit of the only church in the town for several years during the early part of the ninteenth century, it will readily be inferred that some of the leading men of the town were identified with that faith. As early as 1793 the beginnings of Methodism were planted among the settlers. Prior to that time George Pickering and George Roberts, itinerant Methodist preachers, had visited the town, and in the year named Samuel Frost, familiarly called "Master Frost," opened his house for the preaching of the then new religion. Nathaniel Chapin, Uriah Clough, and Joel Farnum were the first to respond, and in 1795 "riders" from Wilbraham gave stated supply, which continued for some years. Among the treasured names of this period are those of Menzies Rayner, Lemuel Smith, Zadoc Priest, Daniel Ostrander and Laban Clark. In 1802 Rev. Henry Eames established a "class" at Samuel Frost's, with David Orcutt as class-leader. Rev. Augustin Jocelyn, the next circuit rider, made Sunday appointments for Ludlow, and gave much of his time there. Thus the faith was spread, gradually, until 1828, when through the efforts

of Rev. Wilbur Fisk, D. D., then principal of Wesleyan academy at Wilbraham, a church building 40 by 50 feet was erected and dedicated. The structure was remodeled in 1858, and with minor improvements in later years it still does service for the denomination in whose interests it was erected. The building is located near the Congregational church at the "Center," and it is pleasing to learn that the best of feeling has existed between the two bodies, each extending courtesies to the other as occasion rendered possible such expressions of Christian regard. The full list of regular pastors of the Methodist church is as follows: Rev. Wilbur Fisk, 1826; Rev. Isaac Jennison, 1827; Rev. Aaron Wait, 1829; Rev. Samuel Davis, 1830-31; Rev. Salmon Hull, 1832; Rev. Paul Townsend, 1833; Rev. Charles D. Rogers, 1834; Rev. Amasa Taylor, 1835; Rev. Philo Hawks, 1836-7; Rev. Charles Virgin, 1838; Rev. James Nichols, 1839-40; Rev. William Campbell, 1841; Rev. John W. Dadmun, 1841-2; Rev. William A. Clapp, 1843; Rev. William Fleming, 1844; Rev. Asa Barnes, 1845; Rev. Ephraim Scott, 1846; Rev. Luther B. Clark, 1847; Rev. John Caldwell, 1848-9; Rev. Moses Stoddard, 1850-51; Rev. James W. Mowry, 1852-3; Rev. Kinsman Atkinson, 1854-5; Rev. Nathan A. Soule, 1856; Rev. Franklin Fisk, 1857-8; Rev. George Prentice, 1859-60; Rev. William G. Leonard, 1861; Rev. Daniel K. Banister, 1862-3; Rev. William J. Pomphret, 1864-6; Rev. Levin A. Bosworth, 1867-8; Rev. Jonas M. Clark, 1869; Rev. John W. Lee, 1870; Rev. John W. Merrill, D. D., 1871-2; Rev. Alfred Noon, 1873-4; Rev. N. H. Martin, 1875-7; Rev. Charles H. Vinton, 1878-9; Rev. Alfred C. Godfrey, 1879-80; Rev. W. H. Adams, 1881-3; Rev. Daniel Atkins, 1884-6; Rev. William Ferguson, 1887-8; Rev. W. H. Adams, 1889-90; Rev. G. W. Simonson, 1893-4; Rev. N. M. Caton, 1897-8; Rev. F. H. Wheeler, 1899-1900; Rev. E. B. Marshall, 1901.

The Methodists appear to have been first in taking an interest in religious matters at Jencksville, and their itinerants visited the factory village as early as 1828. Rev. Mr. Foster, principal of the academy at Wilbraham, was probably the first preacher. In 1831 a considerable revival occurred, and services were held in a room fitted up for the purpose in one of the fac-

tory buildings. These were continued with more or less regularity for several years, until 1841, when Rev. B. F. Lombard became pastor of the little parish, continuing during the following year. In 1845 efforts were made to secure the erection of a church, and the following year the present building was completed and dedicated. It was designed for the joint use of Methodists and Congregationalists; but a question of privileges arising soon after, the Methodists withdrew and a little later erected a building for themselves. The Congregationalists also organized a church and settled a pastor, and the two societies were just getting into working condition when the failure of the manufacturing company in 1848 broke all plans for that community. Both houses of worship were soon closed, and the little Methodist church, heavily mortgaged, was sold for a nominal sum and removed to Warren, where it was remodeled and again went into service as "a Methodist meeting-house." In 1857 Wilbraham academy again came to the rescue in the person of one of its students, W. H. Daniels, who conducted a successful revival, and Methodist pastors were assigned to the parish until 1863. Four years of inertia then followed, when a union church was organized, which has since that time been supplied with clergymen representing both denominations, the list of those who have served as pastors at the village from the first religious organization being as follows, the letter indicating the preacher's denomination: Rev. B. F. Lombard (M.), 1841-2; Rev. Daniel E. Chapin (M.), 1846; Rev. David Sherman (M.), 1847; Rev. Z. A. Mudge (M.), 1848; Rev. William Hall (C.), 1848; Rev. W. H. Daniels (M.), 1857; Rev. David K. Merrill (M.), 1858; Rev. L. R. S. Brewster (M.), 1859; Rev. George E. Chapman (M.), 1860-61; Rev. John Noon (M.), 1862; Rev. J. A. Kibbe (M.), 1863; Rev. A. Gardner (C.), 1868; Rev. H. E. Crocker (M.), 1872; Rev. J. A. DeForest (M.), 1873; Rev. Timothy Lyman (C.), 1874; Rev. C. L. Cushman (C.), 1878-9; Rev. John P. Coyle (C.), 1882-5; Rev. Edward P. Day (C.), 1886-90; Rev. Abram J. Quick (C.), 1891-6; Rev. William A. Thomas (C.), 1897-9. For the last two years the pastorate has been vacant.

In the way of societies—fraternal, beneficial and social—the town has enjoyed its full share. For most of the time during the past half-century an efficient temperance organization has existed in Ludlow, reflecting the earnest and continued sentiment of the community, which has ever been in the direction of sobriety and right living. The Sons of Temperance, Good Templars, and other orders have thus had representation. Among the present societies of the town the following, with the officers for 1901, may be mentioned: Ludlow Grange, No. 179, Patrons of Husbandry, organized in 1889. Master, C. B Bennett; lecturer, Mrs. Bertha Taylor; secretary, Mrs. Lizzie C. Chapman. Court Indian Leap, No. 58, Foresters of America, organized in 1891. Chief ranger, John Duffy; treasurer, James Patterson; recording secretary, Robert Stuart. Romona Circle, No. 277, Companions of the Forest, organized in 1895. Chief, Miss Theresa Coyne; treasurer, Miss Sadie White. Brigham Lodge, A. F. and A. M., instituted in 1892. W. M., Albert H. Halford; secretary, George Elphinstone; treasurer, Walter Bennet. Burns Social Club.—President, George Eliphinstone; secretary, James R. Sterling; treasurer, James D. Wilson. Ludlow Athletic and Recreation Association, incorporated in 1896. President, Robert Kyle; secretary, George Elphinstone; treasurer, James Patterson.

In an unpretentious but efficient way the town has from the first given attention to the education of its children. The first mention of a school appropriation is made in the midst of the revolutionary war period, when the sum of £400 was voted; but in the inflated currency of that time it is doubtful if this nominally large sum accomplished as much as the £20 which was voted a few years later. In 1800 the amount appropriated was $133. Nine years previous a committee to locate and build school houses had been entrusted with £90 for that purpose, while the general direction of the schools remained in the hands of the selectmen until 1794, when a more satisfactory arrangement—that of a committee from each school district—was adopted. As early as 1822 the division of the town into nine school districts had been completed, and the lines thus estab-

lished largely exist to the present time, the town having voted, under the option allowed by the act of the legislature establishing the grade system of schools in Massachusetts, to continue the districts. That is still done in most parts of the town, but at Ludlow village (formerly Jencksville) a fine eight-room building has recently been erected, at a cost of $23,000, dedicated September 3, 1901, in which the high school and the union grammar school are quartered. The high school is under the direction of Frederic F. Smith as principal with Miss Flora B. Townsend as assistant. The grammar school is instructed by Miss Addie Cole as principal, with seven assistant teachers. The six district schools are each in charge of a single teacher.

In area the present town of Ludlow comprises 28.2 square miles. Its population in 1850, as given by the United States census, numbered 1,186, and for two decades showed a slight loss, being 1,174 in 1860, and 1,136 in 1870. In 1880 it had increased to 1,526, in 1890 to 1,939, and in 1900 to 3,536—the large increase of the last decade being chiefly due to the prosperity and extension of business of the town's chief industry, the Ludlow Manufacturing company.

CHAPTER IX

THE TOWN OF MONTGOMERY

On the northern border of Hampden county, among the rocky, rugged foothills of the eastern range of the Berkshire hills, is one of the smallest yet in some respects one of the most interesting civil divisions of the region. Soon after the close of the last French and English war, when it was safe for an adventurous pioneer to leave the well protected settlements of the larger towns, Ephraim Avery and his family removed from the thickly populated portion of the flourishing town of Westfield and made his way up into the hill regions to the westward

and there established a home not far from the towering heights of old Mt. Tekoa. In the course of a few more months and during the years 1767 and '68, other settlers came to the locality, where the lands were cheap and yet were fertile and productive, and there made comfortable farm homes for themselves, their children and their descendants.

By the frequent arrival of other families in the vicinity a settlement was built up in the space of a few years, and the locality soon became known as the "New Addition" to Westfield, the mother town, whence came nearly all these first settlers. After the total number of families here had increased to perhaps fifty or more, and after these had become united in the common bonds of friendship and mutual interest, they naturally sought to establish a new town in this part of old Hampshire county, for they were at considerable inconvenience in being compelled to travel eight miles to Westfield to transact business, to vote at elections, and to attend to other necessary affairs which might be done nearer home. At that time, as now, eight and ten miles of travel in itself was of little importance to the hardy settler, but between Westfield and the central part of the New Addition settlement the traveled roads were rough and there had been little attempt at improvement in any of the intervening country; and besides, the site of the settlement was elevated several hundred feet above the Westfield village level and the journey up into the mountainous country was attended with many inconveniences and some danger during the frozen seasons of the year.

In 1780, having these things in mind and having increased their new settlement so that it numbered something like 400 inhabitants, the people here, with the sanction and assistance of those at Westfield, besought the general court, praying that they be set off and incorporated as a new town of the county. The legislative records on this subject read as follows: "Whereas the inhabitants of the northerly part of Westfield, called the New Addition, on the east side of Westfield river, and the southwesterly part of Southampton, viz.: fifth mile square, sixth mile square, and the one-half square mile adjoining the said sixth

mile square, and the southerly corner of Norwich, beginning at the Moose Meadow corner 800 rods on the Southampton west line; thence a straight line to Rock House corner, so called, to the corner of the abovesaid New Addition, have represented to this court the great difficulties and inconvenience they labor under in their present situation, and have earnestly requested that they be incorporated into a town;" Be it enacted, etc. "That the northerly part of Westfield, called the New Addition, on the east side of Westfield river, and the southerly part of Southampton, and the southerly corner of Norwich," etc. (here follows a particular description of the territory), "be, and the same is, hereby incorporated into a town by the name of Montgomery."

Thus was the town established during the darkest years of the revolution, but the necessary work of organization and election was hardly finished before the freemen began devising means for the common defense. Already several of the sturdy young men of the town were in the army, and to encourage still further enlistments it was voted to pay a bounty of four pounds for all who would serve for one month, and three pounds, five shillings for each month thereafter. While some of the towns were not unanimous in their support of the cause for which the Americans were contending, the spirit of disloyalty never was shown in the little struggling settlement in the upper valley of Westfield river; and in 1812, when the spirit of federalism pervaded the entire region of Western Massachusetts the resolutions favoring the sentiments of the Northampton convention and its purpose were in accord with the action of nearly all the towns comprising the then new county of Hampden.

Let us return, however, to an earlier period of the town's history and briefly note the names and something of the lives of the settlers who laid the foundations of this loyal old town, whose organization antedated that of the county by more than two-score years. Some doubt exists as to the exact year in which pioneer Ephraim Avery first ventured up into the mountainous regions surrounding old Mt. Tekoa, but common belief places the date of his coming somewhere between 1765 and 1767. He was

the head of a large family of children, not one of whom now lives to tell the tale of early life in the town. His sons were William, Abel, Samuel, Rainsford and Ephraim, and besides he had two daughters. In later years the family became scattered in other localities, but the surname is still represented here by thrifty descendants of the worthy pioneer.

Captain Sylvester Squier, whose name is not unknown in connection with the early military history of the town, was another of the first settlers, and is believed to have come here previous to 1767. He, too, had a goodly family, although we have no present record of the names of his children. Abial Squier was one of the first selectment of the town of 1780, and with Noble Squier of later years served in that capacity a long time. By marriage the daughters of Capt. Squier lost their surnames, yet the direct descendants of the pioneer are still in this part of the county.

Oliver Clark settled here in 1766 or '67 and was one of the first to follow the pioneer into the region. He lived to a good old age, and was a man much respected in the town although his life was devoted to personal concerns rather than public affairs. The sons of Oliver Clark were Oliver, James, Hawley, Simon, Pharez, Elijah and Elisha, and the daughters were Ruth and Olive. By the marriage of these children the Clark surname became numerous in Montgomery and always stood for integrity and worth.

Another pioneer head of a worthy family was David Allyn, who settled here probably in 1767, and some representative of whose family name in each succeeding generation has been prominently identified with Montgomery history, and also with its best interests in business pursuits. Pioneer Allyn raised to maturity a large family of seven sons and six daughters. The sons were Jabez, David, Joseph, Ansel, James, Albert and Albro Allyn. Daniel Barrett, another settler of about the same time, also was the head of a large family in Montgomery, yet the surname is not now represented here. His sons were Moses, Samuel, Benjamin, Daniel, Marcus, Lysander and Elisha, the first three of whom died in the town, while the others joined the tide of westward emigration years ago.

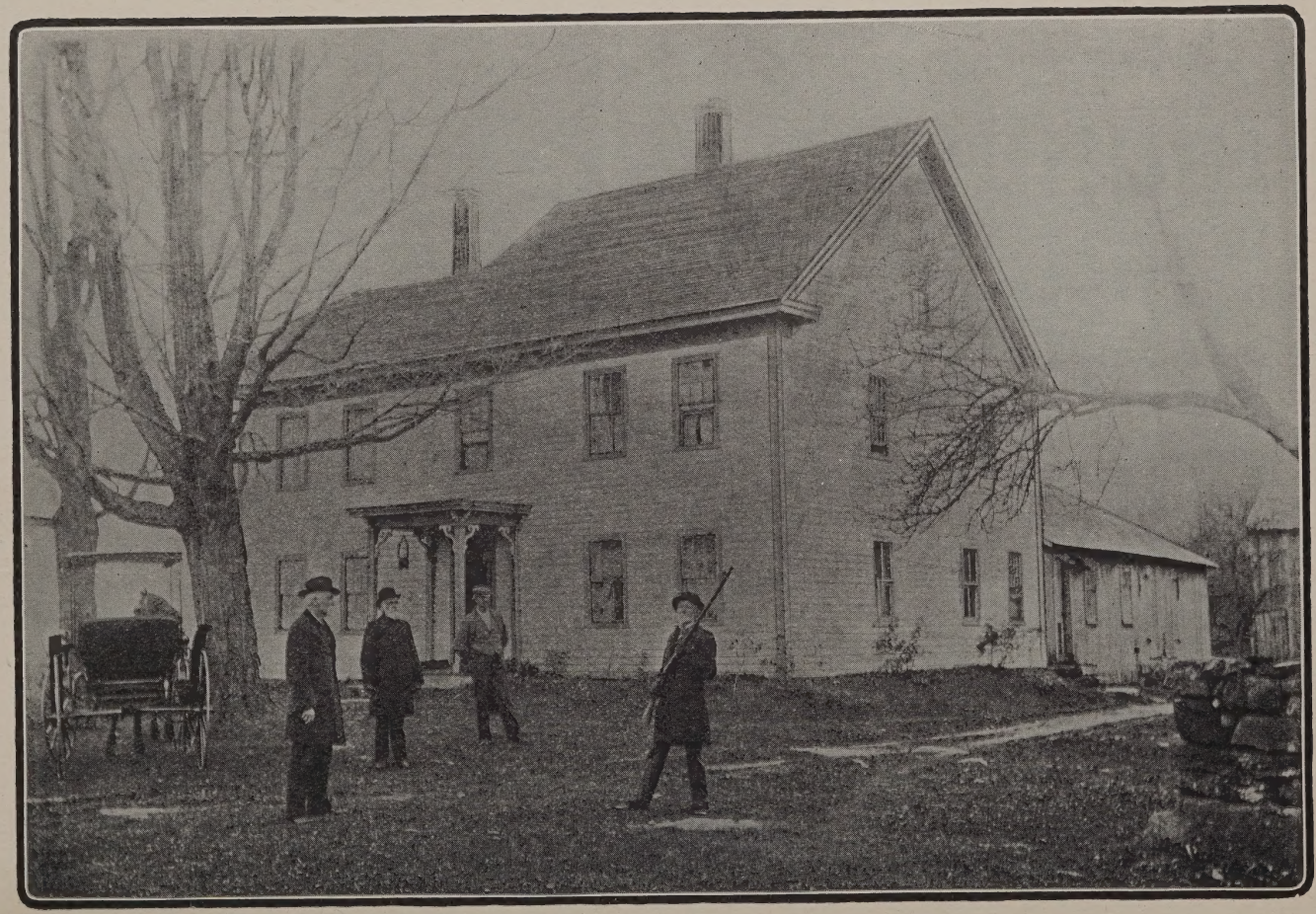
The Parks surname has been known in Montgomery history ever since the days of first settlement; and almost every generation of the descendants of Aaron Parks, including the pioneer himself, has served the town in one or more public offices. Aaron Parks was married three times. His sons were Moses and Orrin, neither of whom died in the town, but both of whom left families, and from them have descended many of the Parks's, now so numerous in the western towns of the county.

Another old and prominent family name in Montgomery history is that of Moore, the pioneer being Joel Moore, an industrious and fairly successful man, yet not a conspicuous figure in public affairs. Joel, Jr., Guy and Dorus Moore were sons of Joel, the pioneer, and the descendants of these are now numerous in Hampden county. Throughout all generations of the family from the pioneer to the present factors in county life, the Moores have been noted for their industry and integrity.

Abial Pettis was still another of the earliest settlers in the New Addition, and although the descendants of Abial are still numerous in this section of the county, recollections of the pioneer himself are not easily obtainable. Allen Pettis, one of his sons, lived in Montgomery and attained a good old age. Abial jun., died in the town but left no children. Philander, son of the pioneer, died in the west.

Among the other early settlers of Montgomery, some of whom have been of the first comers, but of whom no accurate data are obtainable, there may be recalled the names of John Kagwin, Elijah Pitcher (one of the first selectmen and a prominent person in town affairs), John French, Jacob Fellows, Zadock Bosworth, Nathaniel Wattles, Daniel Barret, Richard Falley (who was selectman in 1784, and who also was a prominent character in early town history.[1] His daughter was grandmother of former president Grover Cleveland. The Falley surname is not now represented in the town), Amos Maynard, Truman

[1]Richard Falley owned and lived on the farm now owned by Mr. Le Valley, the artist, and carried on a gun shop in which he made muskets for the American soldiers in the revolutionary war, and also in the war of 1812-15. The foundations of the old shop are still to be seen in a ravine near Mr. Le Valley's residence.—Ed.



The old Richard Falley Homestead in Montgomery

Richard Falley's daughter was grandmother of Grover Cleveland

Mallory, Isaac Palmer, Isaac Chapman, Jacob Andrews, Martin Root, Oliver Rice, Edward Taylor, Jonathan Herrick, Levi Adams, Isaac Wilbarn, and others perhaps equally worthy of mention, but whose names are forgotten with lapse of years.

With settlement thus permanently established by sturdy New Englanders from the eastern colonies of the province, and with the subsequent acquisition to their number by others of the same stock, it is not surprising that the liberty-loving people should petition the general court for an act of incorporation; and when that end was attained it was fitting that the new jurisdiction should be named in allusion to one of America's bravest revolutionary patriots, Gen. Richard Montgomery, who was killed in battle before the walls of Quebec in 1775.

In a preceding paragraph the act creating the town is referred to at some length. On February 25, 1792, Montgomery surrendered a small portion of its territory to the town of Russell, and on March 6 of the same year parts of Norwich and Southampton were annexed to Montgomery. The organization was accomplished with little ceremony, and the first meeting for the election of officers was held at the house of Zadock Bosworth on December 14, 1780. At that time all the offices were filled and some provision was made for the support of public schools. The church society then was an institution of the town and was for three years afterward a controlling factor in its government.

Selectmen.—1780, Oliver Clark, Abial Squier, Elijah Pitcher; 1781, Abial Squier, Elijah Pitcher John French; 1782, Abial Squier, Jacob Fellows, Nathaniel Wattles; 1783, Aaron Parks, Sylvester Squier, Daniel Barret; 1784, Richard Falley, Sylvester Squier, Aaron Parks; 1785, Isaac Wilbarn, Daniel Barret, Amos Maynard; 1786, Jacob Andrus, Martin Root, Truman Mallory; 1787, Edward Taylor, Sylvester Squier, Amos Maynard; 1788, Aaron Parks, Noble Squier, David Crow; 1789, Isaac Palmer, Jr., Noble Squier, James Clark; 1790, Isaac Palmer, Jr., Amos Maynard, Samuel Wright, Jr.; 1791, Isaac Chapman, Abner Rice, Jr., Noble Squier; 1792, Daniel Barret, Edward Taylor, Aaron Parks; 1793, Jonathan Herrick, Noble Squier, Gardner Squier; 1794, Edward Taylor, Daniel Barret,

Amos Maynard; 1795, Edward Taylor, Sylvester Squier, Levi Adams; 1796, Sylvester Squier, Isaac Chapman, Martin Root; 1797, Edward Taylor, Aaron Parks, Levi Adams; 1798, Edward Taylor, Amos Maynard, Daniel Barret; 1799, Aaron Parks, Elisha Hutchinson, Sylvester Squier; 1800, Sylvester Squier, Zadock Bosworth, Daniel Barret; 1801, Aaron Parks, Amos Maynard, Daniel Barret; 1802-3, Edward Taylor, Aaron Parks, Daniel Barret; 1804, Aaron Parks, Richard Falley, Sylvester Squier; 1805, Samuel Avery, Richard Falley, Sylvester Squier; 1806-8, Aaron Parks, Sylvester Squier, Samuel Avery; 1809, Aaron Parks, Sylvester Squier, David R. Cooley; 1810-11, Aaron Parks, Sylvester Squier, James Wright; 1812, Aaron Parks, Joseph Green, James L. Adair; 1813, Aaron Parks, Truman Mallory, Abner Chapman; 1814, Edward Taylor, Moses Hatch, David Crowley; 1815-17, Edward Taylor, Aaron Parks, Moses Hatch; 1818, Moses Hatch, Aaron Parks, Gameliel King; 1819, Edward Taylor, John Crow, Orrin Parks; 1820, Wm. Crow, Edward Taylor, Orrin Parks; 1821, Edward Taylor, Orrin Parks, Pliny Moore; 1822, Moses Parks, Flavius Moore, Wm. Crow; 1823, Edward Taylor, Pliny Moore, Orrin Parks; 1824, Edward Taylor, Orrin Parks, John Crow; 1825-26, Moses Parks, John Crow, Orrin Parks; 1827-28, Edward Taylor, Orrin Parks, Lucius Wright; 1829, Edward Taylor, Moses Parks, Orrin Parks; 1830-31, Orrin Parks, John Crow, Ransom Clark; 1832, Edward Taylor, Moses Parks, Orrin Parks; 1833, Edward Taylor, Moses Parks, Wm. Squier; 1834, Orrin Parks, Wm. Squier, John Camp; 1835, Edward Taylor, Orrin Parks, John Camp; 1836, Orrin Parks, Noah Sheldon, Elisha Avery; 1837-38, Orrin Parks, Ransom Clark, Nathan Hutchinson; 1839, Moses Parks, Elisha Avery, Wm. Squier; 1840, Orrin Parks, Wm. Squier, Sheldon Brownson; 1841, Moses Parks, Noah Sheldon, Nathan Hutchinson; 1842, Orrin Parks, Isaac Brownson, Wm. Squier; 1843, Ransom Clark, Wm. Squier, Elisha P. Parks; 1844, Ransom Clark, Elisha P. Parks, Norman Chapman; 1845, Ransom Clark, Sheldon Brownson, Edward Taylor; 1846-47, Elisha Avery, Wm. Squier, Aaron P. Parks; 1848, Amos W. Wheeler, Ransom Clark, Norman Chapman; 1849, Aaron P.

Parks, Ransom Clark, Hiram Bartholmew; 1850, Wm. Squier, Elisha P. Parks, N. P. Bartholmew; 1851, Elisha P. Parks, Holley Clark, N. P. Bartholmew; 1852, Edward M. Taylor, Aaron P. Parks, S. Moore; 1853, Wm. Squier, Isaac Brownson, Zenas Clark; 1854, Wm. Squier, L. T. Allyn, Nelson Clark; 1855, Wm. Squier, L. T. Allyn, A. A. Moore; 1856, A. A. Moore, Nelson Hutchinson, B. H. Kagwin; 1857, Wm. Squier, Holley Clark, A. A. Moore; 1858, Aaron P. Parks, L. T. Allyn, Henry S. Stiles; 1859, Wm. Squier, Chelsea Upson, Francis W. Clark; 1860, A. A. Moore, John Hutchinson, Chelsea Upson; 1861, A. A. Moore, Horace F. Moore, Henry S. Stiles; 1862, Wm. Squier, Aaron P. Parks, Gilbert Squier; 1863, Wm. Squier, A. A. Moore, Orlando W. Axtell; 1864, Edwin S. Snow, Horace F. Moore, R. W. Clark; 1865, Aaron P. Parks, R. W. Clark, Horace F. Moore; 1866-67, A. A. Moore, H. K. Axtell, O. A. Moore; 1868, R. W. Clark, Wm. Squier, Lewis T. Allyn; 1869, R. W. Clark, Henry S. Stiles, Chelsea Upson; 1870, R. W. Clark, Henry S. Stiles, Ransom E. Clark; 1871, E. W. Pettis, R. W. Clark, Ransom E. Clark; 1872, R. E. Clark, Henry S. Stiles, Wm. H. Avery; 1873, R. E. Clark, Lewis T. Allyn, Ezra Wright; 1874-75, R. E. Clark, Henry S. Stiles, Chelsea Upson; 1876, Lewis T. Allyn, F. W. Clark, A. A. Moore; 1877, R. W. Clark, Henry S. Stiles, G. L. Moore; 1878, Lewis T. Allyn, F. W. Clark, H. F. Moore; 1879-81, R. W. Clark, Henry S. Stiles, G. L. Moore; 1882, R. W. Clark, H. K. Axtell, H. C. Kelso; 1883, R. W. Clark, H. S. Stiles, H. C. Kelso; 1884-86, G. L. Moore, Ezra Wright, L. O. Moore; 1887-89, R. W. Clark, L. O. Moore, G. L. Moore; 1890, L. O. Moore, Ezra Wright, A. G. Wright; 1891-94, L. O. Moore, R. W. Clark, G. L. Moore; 1895-99, L. O. Moore, R. W. Clark, A. D. Avery; 1900, L. O. Moore, A. D. Avery, A. J. Hall; 1901, L. O. Moore, D. L. Allyn, O. E. Moore.

Town Clerks.—Stephen Hurlbut, 1780-83; Daniel Barrett, 1783-97; James Searle, 1798; Daniel Barrett, 1799-1805; James Wright, 1805-9; James L. Adair, 1809-16; Elisha Chapman, 1816-19; Moses Hatch, 1819-20; Orrin Parks, 1821; Samuel Barrett, 1822-23; Orrin Parks, 1824-53; N. S. Moore, 1853-58; Wm. Squier, 1858-60; Aaron P. Parks, 1860-62; L. T. Allyn, 1863;

Horace Bartholmew, 1864; Aaron P. Parks, 1865-68; L. T. Allyn, 1868-72; A. A. Moore, 1872-78; R. E. Clark, 1879; Horace Bartholmew, 1880-81; A. A. Moore, 1882; H. S. Stiles, 1883-86; F. W. Clark, 1887-88; H. S. Stiles, 1889; A. A. Moore, 1890; L. T. Allyn, 1891-92; D. L. Allyn, 1893-98; A. D. Avery, 1899-1901.

Town Officers, 1901.—L. O. Moore, O. E. Moore, D. L. Allyn, selectmen; A. D. Avery, town clerk; A. J. Hall, auditor; D. L. Allyn, treasurer; C. H. Clapp, collector; C. H. Clapp and C. A. Williams, constables; M. E. Camp, D. L. Allyn, H. C. Kelso, cemetery commissioners; Lucien O. Moore, justice of the peace; C. A. Williams, chief of police. The selectmen act as assessors, overseers of the poor and town board of health.

Among the towns of Hampden county Montgomery always has enjoyed an excellent standing and has furnished to the higher offices of public life in the region some of the best men chosen to those positions. A glance at the above list of selectmen will show the quality of material from which the town officers have been selected, and a perusal of the general county civil list will disclose that this town has furnished some strong representatives to the general court of the commonwealth. Yet it is somewhat surprising that in 1900 Montgomery had less than half the number of inhabitants who dwelt in the town one hundred years ago. The causes of this remarkable decrease are too well known to need discussion in this chapter, and a comparison of census statistics with other towns will show that the loss in population here has been no greater than in other similarly conditioned divisions of the county.

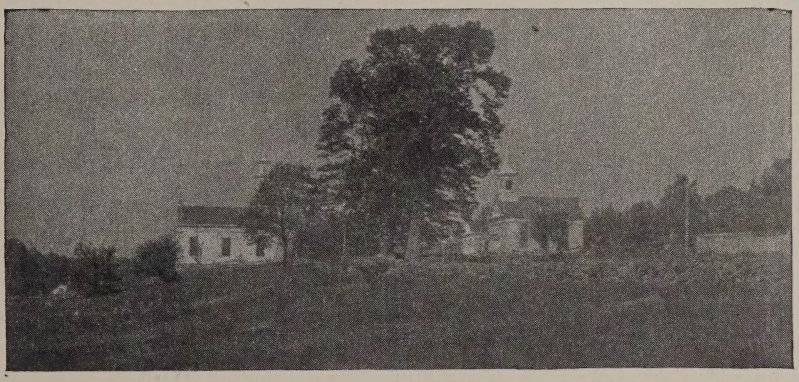
From the earliest years of its history Montgomery has been an agricultural town[1]; the quality of its land is good and fair production is assured under persevering effort on the part of the farmer. But the town happens to be located at a remote distance from the best markets and never has had the direct benefits of a railroad. Its lands are elevated several hundred feet above the valley in Westfield, and a fair proportion of its

[1]About 1837 there were 1468 sheep in the town, producing $2,220.35 worth of wool.—Ed.

entire area is covered with excellent timber of various kinds. Lumbering has always been carried on and occasionally woodworking establishments have been operated in the town.

The population of the town at various periods is shown by the following extracts from the federal and state census reports: 1790, 449; 1800, 560; 1810, 595; 1820, 604; 1830, 579; 1840, 740; 1850, 393; 1855, 413; 1860, 371; 1865, 353; 1870, 318; 1875, 304; 1880, 303; 1885, 278; 1890, 266; 1895, 275; 1900, 273.

Notwithstanding the fact that Montgomery has been an incorporated town almost a century and a half, it never has had a village or trading center of any considerable note. The little hamlet which has been made to serve that purpose is



Montgomery

situated near the center of the town and comprises about a dozen dwellings and a few small shops, the Congregational church, the library and a public school. This locality, and indeed the entire town, is made the summer home of many persons who seek to escape the oppressive atmosphere of the cities and find rest and quiet in the more pleasant and healthful hill regions of this substantial old town.

It would be difficult, if not quite impossible, to furnish a reliable list of all the persons who have engaged in industrial pursuits, other than farming, in the town. Many of the best farmers raise general crops, yet dairy farming is perhaps the

chief occupation of the inhabitants. In connection with this pursuit there has been maintained for years several creameries, located according to the convenience of the people of the several sections. At this time these creameries are conducted by A. D. Avery, John Camp, Samuel W. Coe, E. A. Chapman and C. M. Hayden. The axe helve factory is under the present proprietorship of C. A. Williams, who also acts as the peace officer of the town. The cider makers are S. S. Avery and J. E. Camp; cattle dealers, D. L. Allyn and C. S. Allyn; carpenter, H. C. Kelso; wheelwright and general jobber, S. W. Williston; postmistress, Mrs. A. E. Pittsinger; justice of the peace, Lucien O. Moore; painter, Clifford Williston; proprietor of stage line, W. B. Cushman; librarian, Mrs. D. L. Allyn; library committee, Mrs. A. D. Avery, D. S. Moore, Mrs. H. C. Kelso.

The town always has maintained a public school system according to the requirements of the law and of a standard equal to that of any other town of like situation with this. When formally organized in 1780 ample provision was made for the support of a school, and as the several localities became settled the territory was divided into districts and a school was provided for each. The maximum number, both of schools and pupils, was reached between 1830 and 1840, since which time they have been reduced in number as the population has decreased. At the present time five schools are maintained, but the attendance is small in each, the total number of children of school age in the town being only 47. Under the present arrangement pupils entitled to attend an academic school are sent to Westfield. Montgomery is one of four towns in Hampden county which have no superintendent of common schools.[1] The present school committee comprises D. L. Allyn, chairman; C. H. Clapp and C. M. Hayden.

In the early history of the town the affairs of the church and of town itself were conducted almost as a single body, and public maintenance of religious worship was a recognized custom from the time the settlement was begun until about three

[1]Since this was written the town has joined with Russell, Blandford and Huntington in employing a Superintendent of Schools.

years after the incorporating act of 1783. Previous to 1780 the church in Westfield governed the ecclesiastical history of the New Addition. On the organization of the town the inhabitants discussed the question of providing for regular services, and in December following appropriated six pounds for the support of "preaching in the town." In 1783 Rev. John Ballentine was engaged to preach at the price of two dollars for each Sabbath's service for twenty weeks. The first services were held in the houses of the inhabitants, and in 1788 the subject of a meeting house was discussed. In 1797 the first church edifice was built, and was succeeded by the present structure erected in 1848. During the period of its history, the Congregational church in Montgomery has experienced a varied condition of existence, at times being in a healthful state and as often decreasing in numbers until it was not self-supporting. Now the pulpit is supplied from Huntington by Rev. W. L. Hendrick.

Methodism gained a foothold in the town along about 1825 or '30 and increased so rapidly that in the course of the next twenty years a house of worship was erected at the center. Thereafter regular services were held during the warm months of each year, but finally the town's population became so lessened that the society could not maintain a separate existence. In the same manner and at about the same time the Second Adventists planted a society of their church in Montgomery, and occupied the Congregational house of worship at the Center. This society has since maintained an existence, although its members are few in number. At the present time its people are under the ministerial care of Rev. G. L. Teeple, of Huntington.

For many years Montgomery has been noted for the integrity and worth of its citizens, and in glancing over the records of the county we find that some of the best public officers have been chosen from this town; and in local affairs we also observe that the positions of trust have nearly always been filled by men of acknowledged worth and high character. Elisha Clark, who now is bordering on 90 years of life, began here a poor man and eventually became one of the largest land owners in the town. F. W. Clark, also a prosperous farmer, has been

an active factor in public affairs; has been town clerk, selectman, justice of the peace, and representative to the general court. O. A. Moore is a successful farmer and likewise has gained celebrity as a veteran boarding-house keeper. W. W. Avery is more than 80 years old and for about 25 years drove the mail and passenger stage.

Among the other prominent factors in the past and present history of the town we may mention the names of R. D. Avery, E. A. Chapman, S. W. Coe, E. C. Clark, all substantial farmers; A. D. Avery, town clerk and farmer; S. B. Williston, carpenter and blacksmith; C. H. Clapp, for several years constable and collector of taxes; J. J. LaValley, the artist of wide repute; George Avery, farmer and capitalist; H. C. Kelso, carpenter and joiner; E. S. Allyn, farmer and extensive cattle dealer; D. L. Allyn, farmer, dealer in live stock and conspicuous figure in town and church affairs; L. O. Moore, farmer, justice of the peace, master of the grange, and who has held the office of selectman longer than any previous incumbent in that position.

CHAPTER X

THE TOWN OF CHESTER

BY A. M. COPELAND

The town of Chester, formerly called Murrayfield, is located in the extreme northwest corner of Hampden county. It is bounded south by Blandford—the only town in Hampden county that it touches; west by Becket; northwest by Middlefield; north by Worthington; east by Huntington. Chester and Huntington and nearly half of Montgomery and the southeast corner of Middlefield were all originally in the town of Murrayfield. Murrayfield was one of several townships that had been laid out and known only by number—this one being known as "township No. 9." Three rivers flowed through this

township, and their united waters flowing together near the northeast corner, and within the limits of Blandford, formed from that point the Westfield river. The three rivers were always known as Westfield river branches, and the vicinity of their convergence was sometimes known by the name "Westfield River Branches," which name was sometimes used in conveying real estate located at this place. These rivers were known as west, middle and east branches. The west branch enters Chester from Middlefield, flowing in a nearly southerly direction as far as the village of Chester—for many years known as Chester Factories—and thence it flows in a course south of east to and through the south part of Huntington to the point where it unites with the east branch, and Westfield river proper begins. The middle branch enters Chester near the boundary line between Middlefield and Worthington and, flowing in a southeasterly direction through Chester, enters the town of Huntington and finally empties into the East branch, which is the largest of the three branches, and flows through the entire length of Huntington from north to south. These rivers flow through V shaped gorges, the remains of what were at one time deep canyons. The sides of these gorges are very steep; so that roads from the rivers to the highland are practicable only through the ravines where flow the numerous brooks from the highlands to the rivers. The highways of Chester, except those traversing the plateau, are in the bottom of the gorges and ravines; and these are the most important highways of the town. The west branch is spanned by five bridges between Middlefield and Huntington; and the middle branch is spanned by four bridges. The highways along these two rivers afford delightful drives in summer and autumn. The scenery is wonderfully wild and picturesque at any season. Some of the most delightful walks and drives the writer has ever enjoyed have been along these river roads in the winter time. Numerous brooks, having their rise 1,000 feet or more higher than the beds of these rivers, flow with great rapidity through wild ravines and mingle their waters with those of Westfield river branches. And it is through these ravines that the inhabitants of the high lands make their

ways to the valleys both from Chester Centre and from Blandford, over roads for the most part of fairly good grades; journeys over which in summer and in autumn are wonderfully delightful.

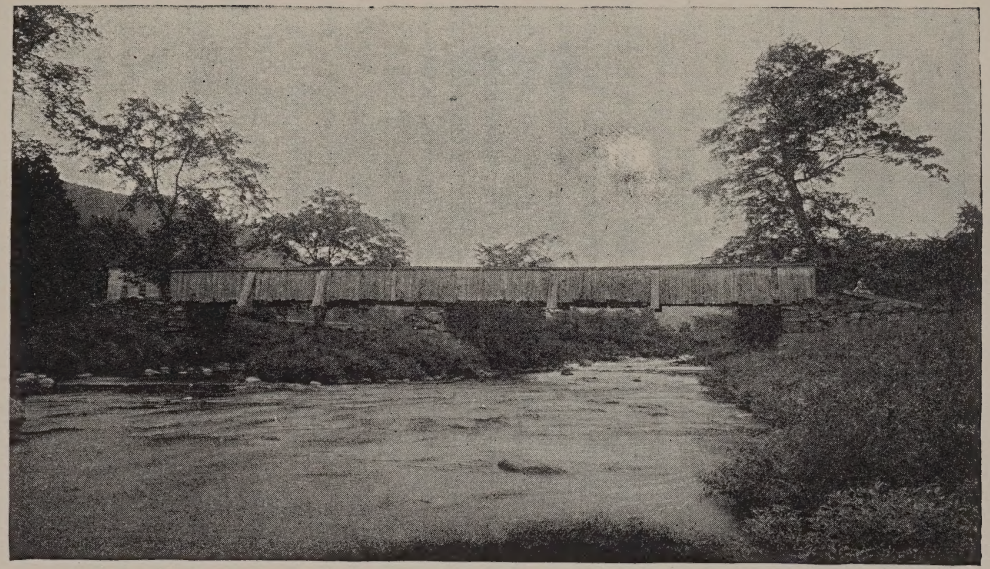
Chester Centre—or Chester Hill, as it is sometimes called—formerly an important village, is about twenty-five miles from Springfield. The only natural pond in Chester is located near the summit of Round Top, the highest land in Hampden county, it being 1,797 feet above sea level. Of the more important brooks, the principal one is Walker's brook, which rises near the centre of Becket, flows in an easterly direction and enters the west branch at the village of Chester. This brook affords valuable water power for several industries, the most important of which is the Emery mill.

Abbott brook rises in the northerly part of the town about 1,600 feet above sea level, and enters the west branch about 1½ miles below Chester Factories. Shortly before the breaking out of the civil war the county commissioners laid out a road of very easy grade from the river to Chester Centre on the line of this brook; but unfortunately, owing to the burdens of the town growing out of the civil war, the road was not built.

Another somewhat important stream is Sanderson brook, rising in Blandford at an altitude of about 1,600 feet, and flowing north through a very picturesque ravine, enters the west branch about 3 miles below Chester Factories. It was formerly a famous fishing brook; as was Roaring brook, rising in Blandford and entering west branch about 2 miles below Sanderson brook.

Cook brook enters the west branch about 1½ miles westerly from Huntington village. It rises in the northerly part of Chester at an altitude of about 1,500 feet and flows south. The first saw mill built in the town was located on this brook a short distance south of the church at Chester Centre. This also was a famous trout brook, and in his boyhood the writer spent many delightful hours on its banks.

Flowing into middle branch are Winchell brook, Day's brook, rising in the northerly part of the town about 1,500 feet



An old bridge—Chester

about sea level and flowing southeasterly, entering middle branch at Dayville, Kinney brook, rising in Worthington, and flowing southeasterly and entering middle branch at Dayville.

The road from Huntington village—formerly Chester village—to Chester Centre and on to Middlefield, on the line of Cook brook, was an important highway in the early history of the town when traveling was by stage coaches, and the transportation of merchandise was by horses and wagons—a time when the mountain farmer could sell all his farm produced right at the village of Chester Centre. Another important highway, branching off from the road to Becket, leads to Blandford. The road to Becket was part of an old turnpike known as the Becket Turnpike, incorporated about the beginning of the nineteenth century.

There are several villages in Chester that will be particularly described later on. At present they will be referred to simply as pertaining to the geographical features of the town. The most northerly one is North Chester, located on middle branch. Lower down this river are Dayville and Littleville. Huntington village was formerly included in Chester and known by the name Chester Village. Seven miles up the west branch is the village of Chester, formerly called Chester Factories. Chester Centre is the oldest of the villages.

The topographical and geological features are exceedingly interesting. The sides of the ravines rise abruptly to heights above sea level varying from about 1,200 feet to 1,500 feet with occasional points reaching to 1,600 feet and higher, and these ravines are as numerous as are the rivers and the important brooks. At the altitude of 1,200 to 1,300 feet is an open country forming a part of the great Western Massachusetts plateau, which was planed down and carved into its present form, by glacial action in the Ice Age. The prevailing rock is mica slate, the strata of which are tilled to a nearly vertical position, the strike being north and south. There are some valuable minerals in Chester, the most important of which is emery. This subject is so well treated in the chapter of the Geology of Hampden county, that nothing further need be said here.

THE TOWN OF CHESTER

Chester has always been considered a good agricultural town. The land, although rocky and stony, is very strong and fertile, maturing all the ordinary crops usually grown in New England. All the hardier fruits, particularly apples, grow abundantly, and especially is this true in the vicinity of Chester Centre and in other localities on the plateau. Peaches, plums, and grapes are successfully grown and with profit. The land in the valley, bordering the rivers and known as interval land, is easily tilled and responds generously to faithful cultivation, but it lacks the strength and staying qualities of the plateau land. Formerly cattle and sheep raising was very profitable. But since the days of the stage coach these enterprises have dwindled, especially since the rapid opening of the Great West. But of late attention is being given to the hill towns of Hampden and the other counties of Western Massachusetts, and it is hoped that their future will be brighter than their present. The soil of Chester is also fertile in the growth of forests, all the valuable woods and timber of New England growing luxuriantly. The sound of the saw in numerous mills on the rivers and brooks rang out cheerily in days gone by, and even now no year passes when lumbering is not carried on in some parts of the town.

Settlement and Early History of the Town.—Originally Chester was part of township No. 9, which belonged to the government, and was estimated to contain 32,200 acres of land, out of which were carved a part of Middlefield at the northwest corner, the town of Norwich, now Huntington, and part of Montgomery, leaving Chester of nearly its present form and size. In 1736 a grant of 4,800 acres in the extreme south corner of No. 9 was made by the government to David Ingersole of Westfield in exchange for lands in Berkshire county wanted for the Stockbridge Indians. For the same purpose a grant of 2,000 acres in the east part of the township, and now included in the town of Huntington, was made to Joseph Green and Isaac Walker of Boston in 1739, in exchange for land in Berkshire county. In 1737, on petition of Rev. Stephen Williams of Springfield, a grant of 700 acres was laid out to the heirs of

Rev. John Williams, formerly of Deerfield, and was known as the Williams grant. This tract was at the southeast of Green and Walker grant, and is included in the town of Huntington. In the south part of No. 9, and adjoining the Blandford line, a grant of 250 acres was made to John Bolton, who had already settled in Blandford. This was known as Bolton grant and it includes the larger part of the present village of Huntington, formerly known as Chester Village. Subject to these grants, on June 2, 1762, by order of the general court, ten townships in the western part of Massachusetts, including No. 9, were sold at public auction. No. 9 was sold for £1,500 and came into the possession of John Chandler and Timothy Paine, both of Worcester, John Murray of Rutland, and Abijah Willard of Lancaster. They did not at once receive an absolute title in fee of No. 9, but took it subject to conditions which they subsequently fulfilled. What the conditions were appears in the conditions imposed by them upon the settlers and will appear later.

Prior to the sale of June 2, 1762, nineteen settlers with their families had taken possession of tracts of land within the limits of No. 9, and had settled upon them. The names of these persons were David Bolton, James Bolton, James Clark, Abraham Flemming, Zebulon Fuller, David Gilmore, Moses Hale, William Mann, Ebenezer Meacham, William Miller, Moses Moss, Israel Rose, David Scott, Ebenezer Webber and Jonathan Hart Webber. They had settled in the southeasterly part, but west of Ingersole's grant. Some of them were there as early as 1760, and probably in violation of law and without right. In the autumn of 1762 the proprietors of No. 9 employed Eldad Taylor and Charles Baker, two surveyors residing in Westfield, who surveyed and laid out the first division of lots consisting of 120 lots of 108 acres each, in the central part of the township and comprising what is now known as Chester Centre. The first meeting of the proprietors was held at the inn of William Lyman in Northampton, January 5, 1763, and they proceeded to organize and arrange for admitting settlers to the lots surveyed as above stated. The conditions of settlement were as follows: "That each one within the space of three years commencing

from the first of June last build a dwelling house on their lot of the following dimensions, viz.: Twenty-four feet long, eighteen feet wide, and seven feet stud, and have seven acres of land well cleared and fenced and brought to English grass or plowed, and actually settle with family on the same and continue such family thereon for the space of six years, and shall also within three years from this time settle a Protestant minister of the Gospel there and pay one-sixth part of the charge thereof, and that each settler have 100 acres of land as an incouragement, and that they give bond to the treasurer of said proprietors in the sum of fifty pounds conditioned to perform the conditions, and upon their complying and performing said conditions the said lots be confirmed to them, their heirs and assigns forever''.

They admitted the following named persons as settlers: David Bolton, Robert Blair, Absolom Blair, John Boyes, John Brown, James Black, James Clark, Glass Cochran, John Crooks, John Crawford, William Campbell, jr., William English, Andrew English, Samuel Elder, James Fairman, Abraham Flemming, John Gilmore, David Gilmore, Alexander Gordon, John Hannum, Jesse Johnson, Thomas Kennedy, William Kennedy, Paul Kingston, John Lyman, John Laccore, Elias Lyman, Benjamin Matthews, John McIntire, Nathan Mann, William Mann, Thomas Morcton, Gideon Matthews, William Moore, Thomas McIntire, Asa Noble, Thomas Noble, jr., Israel Rose, Nathan Rose, John Scott, jr., David Scott, John Smith, Abner Smith, John Woods, Ebenezer Webber, Levi Woods and Jonathan Hart Webber.

Only thirteen of the nineteen settlers found on the land by the proprietors were permitted to draw lots; and of these only seven were permitted to hold 100 acres where they had begun improvements. Six only were permitted to draw lots with the other settlers; the wishes of the others to remain on the lands where they had begun improvements, were disregarded by the proprietors. The remaining six, James Bolton, Zebulen Fuller, Moses Hale, Ebenezer Meacham, William Miller and Moses Moss, were neither permitted to keep their lands nor to draw with

others. Fuller, Meacham and Miller remained and purchased farms. The other three went elsewhere.

Of these settlers the Boltons, John Crooks, John Scott, jr., and Glass Cochran, came from Blandford; Andrew and William English and probably the Gilmores came from Pelham. The Lymans were Northampton men and never settled in No. 9. But Elias Lyman gave his lot to his two sons, Stephen and Timothy, who packing their worldly effects into a chest and carrying it between them, one hand grasping a handle of the chest and the other an axe, came on foot to the highlands of No. 9. John Boyes, John Woods, and probably James Black and Levi Woods came from Rutland. John Wood came from Lancaster, Jesse Johnson and John Hannum came from Southampton, and Abner and John Smith came from Northampton. Tradition has it that John Smith was a man of wonderful physical strength and endurance; and that he went from Northampton to No. 9 on foot, carrying on his back a five-pail iron kettle.

Gideon Matthews came from Torrington, Conn., but his son, Benjamin Matthews, never settled in the new town. Israel and Nathan Rose came from Granville. The Nobles were Westfield men; they never settled in No. 9, and so forfeited the lots set out to them. Ebenezer Meacham came from Enfield, Conn. Of the other people who came to No. 9, Timothy Smith came from Wallingford, Conn., and purchased 500 acres of land, that took in the southerly part of Goss Hill, for which he paid £225. Malcolm Henry came from Oakham. Nathaniel Welles and Ebenezer King came from Westfield and settled near the east branch and within the limits of Ingersole's grant.

A minister lot containing 100 acres was laid out, and a plot of "eight acres for a meeting-house place, training field and burying place" was laid out on the southerly side. The present meeting house at Chester Centre stands on this eight-acre lot. A meeting-house was erected here a few rods south of the present church. It was 45 feet long by 40 feet wide; the posts were 20 feet high. The frame was set up and boarded and shingled and the doors put in by the proprietors; such being one of condition imposed upon them at the time of their purchase. Several

years passed before the inhabitants were able to fully complete the structure. The building was used not only as a place for religious meeting, but the town meetings were also held there. At first it was used only in the warmer season of the year. In winter religious meetings were held and preaching listened to in private houses or at the tavern, as was most convenient. The meeting-house was not fully completed until about 1773.

The proprietors named the township Murrayfield, and it was incorporated under that name the 31st of October, 1765. The proprietors were dissatisfied with their purchase, and their discontent found expression in a memorial to the general court in December, 1763, in which they complained that the township was uneven and mountainous, and described it as "divided into three parts by three very rapid, rocky rivers; the banks of which rivers are so steep and rocky that it is almost impossible to pass from one side of said river to the other." They complained that about 7,500 acres of the best land had been taken up in former grants and by a pond covering about 500 acres; also, that they found nineteen settlements begun upon the best of the land, and that they had not the power to turn them off, and that if they had the power it would be attended with great trouble and expense, and so they were obliged to give them 100 acres of land each where they had begun to settle; that the only place they could find to lay out the town plot was upon a very high mountain, and that it would always be extremely difficult to get to it, and that they must necessarily expend great sums of money in making roads over mountains and in building expensive bridges over the three rapid rivers. Wherefore they prayed that a part of the sum paid by them for the township be refunded, or else that they be recompensed by the grant of a piece of province land near to or adjoining the township, either in Hampshire or Berkshire counties, "to enable them to make roads and bridges in said township." Their request was granted by giving them 1,200 acres of unappropriated land in Hampshire county in the vicinity of the present town of Cummington. As a matter of fact this was a fraud. The proprietors never built any public roads within the limits of Murrayfield, nor any bridge

over either of the "three very rapid, rocky rivers" mentioned in their petition. The representations of the proprietors were untrue, touching the difficulty in crossing the rivers; for there were many places on all the streams where fordways were safe and easy except in times of high water. The conduct of the proprietors is well set forth in a memorial to the general court in 1779, praying for the building of a bridge over the east branch. The memorial set forth the substance of the petition of the proprietors which resulted in the aforesaid grant of 1,200 acres and of the fact that the proprietors neither before nor after said grant built any roads or bridges, and of the fact that they went over to the enemy when the revolutionary war broke out, and of their treatment of the town and its inhabitants in other respects and concluded as follows: "Therefore we pray your Honors that some method may be devised that a bridge may be built across said river and its branches either by said grant of land which the proprietors got granted to them for services they never did, or out of their estates, or any other way your honors in your wisdom shall see fit." Notice of the petition was given to Timothy Paine, the only proprietor who remained loyal to his country.

The first town meeting was called by Eldad Taylor of Westfield as nominated in the act of incorporation, to be held at the house of Malcom Henry, a tavern, and was held March 11, 1766, and the officers chosen were as follows: Town clerk and treasurer, Malcom Henry; selectmen and assessors, Timothy Smith, John Smith and Malcom Henry; surveyors of highways, Thomas Kennedy, Gideon Matthews, Nathan Mann, William Miller and David Bolton; tithingmen, Samuel Elder and James Clark; wardens, Israel Rose and William Mann; surveyors of timber and lumber, Abraham Flemming and Isaac Mixer; fence viewers, Ebenezer Meachum and Ebenezer Webber; sealer of weights and measures, Jonathan Wait; hog-reeves, Ebenezer King and Stephen Lyman; deer-reeves, Alexander Gordon and Samuel Webb.

No appropriation of money was voted at this time, and probably for the reason that the proprietors were under obliga-

tion to lay out and build highways and bridges. But the town did vote "that swine shall run at large from the middle of September to the middle of May following." The law required that swine running at large should be yoked or ringed in the nose. The yoke was required to be the full length of the swine's neck and half as much below the neck, and the sole or bottom of the yoke to be three times as long as the breadth or thickness of the swine's neck.

The following year the selectmen got into a controversy touching the valuation list of which two different ones were proposed, and which resulted in holding two opposition town meetings and choosing two sets of town officers; and the inhabitants finally had to appeal to the general court to help them out of the mess; which was not fully accomplished until the spring of 1768, when the following town officers were chosen: Town clerk, John Smith; selectmen and assessors, Caleb Forbes, Timothy Smith and William Miller; constables, Stephen Lyman and Ebenezer Webber; tithingmen, Israel Rose and Gideon Matthews; surveyors of highways, Isaac Mixer, Peter Williams, William Moore, James Fairman, James Clark, Jonathan Hart Webber and Samuel Ellis; fence viewers, Ebenezer Meacham and John Laccore; sealer of leather, Isaac Mixer; surveyor of timber and lumber, Bigatt Eggleston; deer-reeves, Ebenezer King and Samuel Fairman; hog-reeves, Nathan Rose and Jonathan Hart Webber; wardens, John Smith and Reuben Woolworth. At a meeting of the town held in June, £20 was appropriated for preaching and £40 for ordinary town expenses. The valuation list at this time showed 68 taxpayers. There were 76 polls, 32 horses, 50 oxen, 74 cows, 123 sheep, 40 swine. The amount of money assessed for taxation was £83 to six different persons, the largest sum being £58, and the least £2.

The first action of the town touching school was in 1769 by raising £12 for the support of schools; which amount was the sum voted the two following years.

At this time no person was qualified to vote in town affairs unless taxed for £20 or more. In 1770 there were but 49 qualified voters.

At the annual meeting in 1771, Dr. David Shepard, who came into the town in 1769, was chosen town clerk, and continued in this office for many successive years. His residence was in the vicinity of the meeting-house, and in very cold weather the town meetings after the choice of a moderator sometimes adjourned to his house and there finished the business of the meeting. It is to the faithfulness of Dr. Shepard as town clerk that we are indebted for the records of the earliest births, deaths and marriages in the town.

About this time a controversy arose between the people at the centre of the town and those of the east part concerning the places where religious meetings and preaching should be held. The people in the east part had about eight miles to travel to reach Chester Centre, which they felt to be a hardship. This difference was compromised temporarily by an agreement that preaching should be had at the meeting-house two-thirds of the time, and one-third of the time at Isaac Mixer's inn, located on the east branch of Westfield river near the present Norwich bridge. This arrangement was for three years; and as the people at Chester Centre and vicinity refused to renew it, the inhabitants in the eastern part of the town appealed to the general court and obtained a division of the town. In June, 1773, the east part was set off and incorporated as the district of Norwich. From this date we deal only with so much of Murrayfield as is now comprised in the town of Chester. The particulars of all these proceedings are fully related in the writer's history of Murrayfield.

After the division of the town there were left in the remaining part of Murrayfield, 74 taxpayers, and the total valuation was £2,178, and 19 shillings. August 16, 1773, a town meeting was held and many articles acted upon; but we will concern ourselves only with that providing for the election of new officers to fill the vacancies left by the division. William Campbell was chosen assessor; Caleb Bascom, sealer of weights and measures; Bigott Eggleston, sealer of timber and lumber. So it appears that the more important offices of the town were held by citizens of the middle and western parts of Murrayfield, which was one cause of the discontent of the east part.

Representatives to the General Court, in what way they served the town, and how they were paid was probably similar to the practice of other towns at that time. An account of how it was done in this town cannot but be of general interest. When the east part of Murrayfield was set off into a separate district, it was invested with all the privileges of other towns, with the exception that it was not permitted to enjoy a separate representation in the general court; but in that respect was to act with Murrayfield in the selection of a common representative. In July, 1775, the inhabitants of Murrayfield voted to send one representative to the general court. It was also voted "that the representative be paid in work or grain for his own time and horses." Lieut. Enoch Shepard was the first representative chosen. The town also "chose for a committee to give instructions to the representative, Deac. John Kirkland, Lieut. David Scott, Ensign Stephen Lyman, Deac. Samuel Matthews and Capt. Abner Smith". In May, 1779, the town voted "that the town will be obliged to pay Capt. Enoch Shepard his expenses for his travel and attendance on the General Court, he giving his time and allowing the town his fees." In 1780, Timothy Lyman was chosen representative, and John Kelso, Enoch Shepard, James Hamilton and Alexander Gordon were chosen a committee "to instruct the representative and order him when to go to Boston." In 1782 Jesse Johnson was chosen representative, and the town passed the following vote: "Voted to choose a committee of five to give Deac. Johnson instructions how to conduct at Boston with regard to the business of the town and when to go, and not to tarry upon other public business."

Valuation Lists of the Town During the War.—The aggregate valuation amounted in 1775 to £1,605; in 1777, £38,819; in 1780, £4,915; in 1781, £4,924. In 1776 Abner Smith was rated at 119 pounds and 15 shillings and was much the wealthiest man in town; but in 1781 his rating was but 31 pounds and 6 shillings. Yet he was relatively the wealthiest man in town. It appears that the collection of taxes was very difficult during this period, not because of unwillingness to pay, but because of the

difficulty in obtaining money enough in view of the depreciated currency. Until the time of the passage of the act, February 21, 1783, changing the name from Murrayfield to Chester, little of historical interest transpired other than such as pertained to the war No town in the commonwealth did its duty more faithfully or more courageously than Murrayfield. In 1774, when events were rapidly tending to a struggle with the mother country, "Capt. David Shepard, Deacon Jesse Johnson, Lieut. Malcom Henry, Deacon Samuel Matthews and Lieut. James Clark" were chosen to act on behalf of the town as a committee of correspondence, at a town meeting held July 25, 1774. It was voted unanimously not to "purchase, buy, or consume any goods or wares that shall be imported from Great Britain after the last of August next ensuing, until the meeting of the General Congress at Philadelphia." Also that "we will comply with what measures the General Congress shall agree upon at their meeting in Philadelphia, in next September."

At a town meeting held June 17, 1776, "To see if the inhabitants will sign an agreement or oath that the General Court have sent out to see who are the friends to liberty and their country and who are not;" also "to see if the town as a body are willing to have the thirteen united colonies declared an independent state from Great Britain if the Continental and General Courts shall judge best, and to pass any vote respecting the same as the town shall judge best and prudent;" it was voted "to sign an agreement or oath sent out from the General Court;" also "that it is the mind of this town that the Continental Congress declare independence from Great Britain, to a man, in a full meeting."

In the matter of raising money for soldiers and war charges, and in furnishing clothing for soldiers, and in helping the families of soldiers, the town of Murrayfield did its very utmost. In 1780 the town raised £5,000 to purchase beef for the army. In July, 1781, the town voted to raise a sum of money sufficient to purchase 3,044 pounds of beef, to be assessed upon the inhabitants, non-residents, and absentees of Murrayfield at the current prices". All the original proprietors of the town, except

Timothy Paine, adhered to the cause of Great Britain, and their property rights in the town were confiscated without mercy. Finally, at a town meeting held August 26, 1782, to see about raising more beef, the town laid down in the furrow—it had done its utmost.

The demands upon Murrayfield in the matter of furnishing men and things for the war was not unlike those made upon all other towns in the county; but the town was poor—that is to say—the people were poor, but extremely patriotic. The space here allotted will not warrant a more detailed account of all that the town did, such as the writer has given in his history of Murrayfield, published in 1892.

Chester.—As early as 1775 the question of changing the name of the town, because of confusion growing out of the fact that there was another town in Hampshire county called Myrifield, became a prominent matter. Several names were suggested: "Mount Asaph," "Mountfair" and "Fairfield" were proposed; but finally the name Chester was agreed upon, and the change was authorized by the general court, as stated before, February 21, 1783. At the March meeting there were elected the last list of officers for the town of Murrayfield, and the first for the town of Chester: Town clerk, David Shepard; selectmen and assessors, John Blair, William Campbell and Timothy Lyman; treasurer, Stephen Lyman; constables, Benjamin Converse for the south end of the town and Timothy Smith for the north end; tithing men, Gideon Matthews and Andrew Henry; wardens, Reuben Woolworth, Samuel Moore, David Shepard, James Hamilton; surveyors of highways, Joseph Abbott, jr., Edward Wright, jr., Thomas Smith, James Core, William Foot, Samuel Moore, Captain Alexander, John Clark and Robert Smith; fence viewers, James Moore and Robert Smith; hog-reeves, Jonathan Waite, jr., William Smith and Jonathan Draper; sealer of weights and measures, William Stone; sealer of lumber, Deacon Matthews; pound keeper, William Foot; sealer of leather, Isaac Bissell. Eighty pounds were raised for repairs of highways, and three shillings fixed as the price of a day's work.

Villages.—There sprang up in Chester five different villages; and a history of them is substantially a history of the town. The oldest of these villages is Chester Centre, located near the centre of the town on the plateau and about 1,300 feet above sea level. It was in this village and vicinity that the authorized settlement of Murrayfield began, and its centre was the meeting-house. The land in this vicinity was very productive; although the usual difficulties of clearing such land and bringing it into fit condition for tilling confronted the early settlers, who came with but little money, but with strong bodies, willing hands and stout hearts; and they bravely met the hardships of pioneer life. Here they made their homes and reared their families. They were, nearly all of them, farmers. Although their hardships were many and their advantages few, they never wavered in their devotion to their country, their zeal for the church, or in their determination to better their conditions materially and spiritually. They raised on their farms pretty much everything they ate, and made at home, with the spinning wheel and loom and other appliances, nearly everything they wore as clothing. Saw mills were located in various parts of the town. A grist mill was located at what is now Littleville. In Chester Centre taverns and stores were established with success worthy of remark. During the early part of the nineteenth century, until the full opening of railroad communication between Boston and Albany, about 1842, one of the stage routes between Boston and Albany was through Chester Centre; it was also one of the routes for freight transportation, in which industry a large number of horses and wagons were engaged; and along the route at distance of four or five miles apart were humble hostelries for the accommodation of teamsters and their teams. It would go without saying that large quantities of hay and grain and other products of the farms found a ready market at home. And in disposing of the products of the dairy, and the wool from their sheep the farmers on Chester hill had a fair chance with the rest of the country; and they were prosperous, and many acquired wealth. At this period the town was populous, containing in 1826 a population of 1,526. But when the

Congregational Church at Chester Centre

railroad came and changed the route of travel and of transportation of merchandise, Chester Centre was made to halt; and from that time on it gradually declined. Its downward course was accelerated by the civil war, until to-day it has no store, nor any other evidence of its former prosperity—only the meeting-house (that in the thirties often had a congregation of 300 to 400, but now a mere handful), the school house and the cemetery.

The most interesting historical feature of Chester Centre is the meeting-house and what it stood for. As stated before, the burden of building it and of organizing the church, was with the proprietors. After erecting the frame and putting on a roof and covering the sides and flooring it, the proprietors left the settlers to struggle through the task of completing the edifice. No action of the town touching this subject appears to have been taken until 1768, after the reorganization of the town. At the first meeting called by the newly elected board of selectmen to be holden at the public meeting-house on June 28, the 3d article of the warrant was "For the town to vote, if they think proper, a suitable sum of money for them to pay for preaching, and also to choose a minister for supplying the pulpit." It was voted to raise £20 for preaching that year; and "that the preaching this year should not be all at the meeting-house." A committee was chosen "to apply to the Rev. Mr. Teed, Mr. Hooker at South and Northampton, and the Rev. Mr. Ballentine of Westfield for advice." Preaching during the winter months was held at private houses, for the reason that the meeting-house was in so unfinished a condition as not to be a suitable place. The window places during cold weather were boarded up for want of glass windows. And it was only from time to time and little at a time for several years, that the work of completing the meeting-house went on to the finish.

The first minister settled over this church was the Rev. Aaron Bascom. After the town had voted to call Mr. Bascom, there came the question of organizing the church. The Scotch element was large, and they preferred the Presbyterian form of church government, while the English element preferred the congregational form. But this difference was settled by com-

promise to the satisfaction of every one, and the church was duly organized on the 20th of December, 1769, and on the same day Mr. Bascom was ordained. Mr. Bascom was a native of Warren, and a graduate of Harvard university. He died in 1814 at the age of 68 years, and in the 45th year of his ministry. The history of Mr. Bascom's ministry in Chester is full of interesting events, but we have not space to go into them. The next minister settled over this church appears to have been the Rev. Samuel Emmerson, ordained February 1, 1815. Mr. Emmerson did not enjoy good health, and was dismissed, December 10, 1817. He was a graduate of Williams college. His successor was Rev. Rufus Pomeroy, a native of Southampton, and a graduate of Williams college. He was installed over the church at Chester Centre November 20, 1819, and dismissed June 27, 1827. Rev. Saul Clark, a graduate of Williams college, was installed as Mr. Pomeroy's successor November 11, 1829, and was dismissed in 1833. The next minister was Rev. Alanson Alvord, settled November 18, 1834, and dismissed February 7, 1838. Rev. S. W. Edson preached here for about three years after the dismissal of Mr. Alvord. Rev. Francis E. Warriner was settled in October, 1841, and dismissed June 22, 1847. Rev. David S. Breed was settled July 4, 1853, and dismissed November 23, 1855. Rev. Hugh Gibson was settled April 28, 1856, and dismissed June 11, 1860. Francis E. Warriner was settled November 6, 1860, and dismissed May 7, 1866. Rev. Henry A. Dickinson was settled March 17, 1867, and dismissed March 1, 1877. Rev. Loring B. Marsh was settled March 5, 1877, and dismissed March 20, 1883. Rev. Charles Morgan was settled August 5, 1883, and dismissed October 1, 1888. Rev. Hiram L. Howard was settled June 16, 1889, and dismissed January 13, 1890. Rev. W. C. Hawthorne was settled August 23, 1891, and dismissed July 16, 1892. Rev. Edward C. Haynes was settled July 1, 1893, and dismissed July 2, 1899. Rev. Thomas W. Davison was settled January 29, 1900, and dismissed April 3, 1901. Rev. William M. Weeks was settled May 26, 1901.

Early in the 19th century this church was the victim of a severe personal controversy, which extended to the formation of

opposing parties. It arose from a personal difference between the pastor, Rev. Mr. Bascom, and Dr. Martin Phelps, one of the prominent members of the church. Out of this feud is said to have grown the Baptist church enterprise, organized in 1811. Dr. Phelps, either voluntarily or by compulsion, withdrew from the Congregational church, and with others joined in the formation of a Baptist church, which was incorporated by an act of the legislature dated February 26, 1811. The incorporators were Samuel Bell, Daniel Bigelow, Joseph A. Rust, Samuel Russell, Harvey Bodurtha, Daniel Smith, John Stephens, James Wilcox, James Nooney, William Nooney, Grove Winchell, Noah Ellis, Samuel Ormsby, Daniel Sizer, Jonathan Webber, jun., Hiram Moore, Lewis Wright, Elisha Wilcox, Elisha Wilcox, jun., Asa Wilcox, Samuel Bell, jun., Aaron Eggleston, William Quigley, jun., James Briggs, Nathaniel Goodwell, William Henry, Abner Masters, Cephus Stow, Samuel Wait, Andrew Henry, Weeden Stanton, Samuel White, John Stevens, William Wyth, Boswell Moore, Jonathan Melvin, David Mann, Silas Griffin, Nathan Seward, Roger Gibson, Samuel Sampson, Edmund Gilmore, Martin Culver, Hezekiah Elsworth, Eli Johnson, William Sizer, jun., James Elder, Azael French, Ezekiel Suire (Squire?), Zadock Ingorls, James Campbell, 2d, Jere Bodurtha, Horace Sizer, Asher Stanton, Salathiel Judd, George Nye, Asa Ayers, Stephen Dewey, John Dewey, Salah Day, Joshua Stevens, Martin Phelps, Moses Warner, George Stewart, John Warner, Jod Seward, Abner Smith, Othniel Belden, Alven Campbell, Ira Day, Seth Phelps, Artemas Elder, David Wells, John C. Bell, James Bell, 2d, William Hamilton, Nathaniel Coomes, Samuel Otis, Seth Wait, Pharez Clark, John Hunter, James Ingalls, Elijah Muck, Jacob Day, James Gilmore, Charles Culver, Aaron Hunter, Joab Smith, Jonathan Wait, Sylvester Belden, James Flemming, Joseph Shoats and Matthew Campbell, "together with such others as have or may hereafter associate with them and their successors, with their families, polls and estates, be, and they are hereby incorporated into a religious society by the name of The Baptist and Independent Society in Chester."

The people above named were from all the different parts of Chester. Elder Grant became the first minister. Elder Ab-

bott was his successor, and held the pastoral office for several years. The next regular pastor was Rev. Silas Kingsley, a native of Becket, whose ministration continued for about 25 years. In 1852 the church numbered 33 members.

Physicians.—Dr. David Shepard was the first physician who settled in Chester. He came about 1770, while the town was called Murrayfield. He was a man of much influence in the town. He married Lucinda Mather, and several children were born to them.

At a town meeting held in April, 1778, it was voted that "Capt. (Dr.) Shepard may have his family inoculated in his house if he will give good obligations for his good behavior," and that he "may let others of this town as long as the first day of May and no longer, if there is room for them." In May following the town voted "that any person may have liberty to have the small-pox by inoculation in the fall at proper places as the town shall judge best."

Dr. Shepard was chosen town clerk in 1771, and at the March meeting, 1783, he was chosen town clerk of Chester, at its first town meeting. It is indicative of his importance in town that after the meeting-house had been repaired, reseated and redignified in 1785, the pew he occupied was No. 1, in dignity 1st.

Dr. William Holland began practice at Chester Centre during the lifetime of Dr. Shepard, but did not remain long. Dr. Martin Phelps came to Chester about 1785 and remained until his death at 82 years of age in 1838. He was a man of much influence in town. He and Rev. Mr. Bascom got into a controversy over politics, which resulted in Dr. Phelps' withdrawal from the Congregational church. He lent his aid to the establishing of a Baptist church about 1812. He represented the town of Chester for several years in the legislature. Professionally he stood high in the community and with medical men.

Dr. Phelps was succeeded by Dr. Anson Boies. He was the physician of Chester for a number of years. He died in 1820. He was married twice, both wives being daughters of Rev. Mr. Bascom.

Dr. Emmons succeeded Dr. Boies, and, after residing several years in Chester, he went to Williamstown and became Prof. Emmons.

Dr. Asahel Parmenter studied medicine with Dr. Boies and remained in Chester a short time.

Dr. T. K. DeWolf established himself at Chester Centre in 1832 and remained there until his death, November 2, 1890, at the age of 90. He was an able man and stood high in his profession not only with the public but with his professional brethren. He was married twice. By his first marriage he had two sons, one of whom was a lawyer of unusual ability, and the other, Dr. Oscar C. DeWolf, a well known physician, and at one time the health commissioner of Chicago. There was also by this marriage a daughter, Sarah, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke seminary, who after teaching a few years became the wife of Dr. Harlow Gamwell, late of Westfield. He had two sons by his second marriage.

Dr. Joseph C. Abbott was in Chester Centre for a time while Dr. DeWolf was in practice there.

The only lawyer who ever located at Chester Centre was Asahel Wright, a graduate of Williams college, in 1803. He married a daughter of Rev. Aaron Bascom. His professional business was small, but he was highly esteemed as a useful man in the affairs of the town and society. His death, which occurred in 1830, at the age of 48 years, was felt as a loss to the people.

North Chester.—About two and one-half miles directly north from Chester Centre is a small village on the middle branch of Westfield river, known at the present time as North Chester, where in the early part of the nineteenth century Thomas F. Plunkett established himself in the business of manufacturing cotton goods. He also kept a store at this place, and from him it was called Plunkettville, by which name it was known for many years. At some time John J. Cook became associated with him in business at North Chester, and after a time became sole proprietor of the cotton mills, and was manufacturing brown sheetings as late as 1840. He also carried

on the manufacture of slat-curtains for windows, the principal market for which was Hartford, Conn. Mr. Cook employed at one time about 40 persons, and turned out annually about 350,000 yards of cotton fabric valued at about $27,800. Shortly after 1840 this manufacturing interest began to feel the disadvantage of being seven miles from a railroad. The cotton factory stood idle for many years, and its former glory is but tradition.

A post-office is still maintained at this village.

Dayville.—About two miles down the river from North Chester is the hamlet called Dayville. There was a saw mill here, and the Days carried on a prosperous business of manufacturing shoe-pegs. But that has passed away, and the plant is now used for other purposes. At the present time a saw mill and a manufactory of wintergreen essence are doing thriving business.

Littleville.—About a mile below Dayville on the middle branch is a hamlet known as Littleville. At this place the first grist mill in the town was established by Jonathan Clapp prior to 1765, and on October 30, 1765, he conveyed the property to Jonathan Wait. A saw mill was also established. A tannery was established here by Prescott & Sherman and maintained several years until they sold it to Benjamin Little, who had worked for them a number of years. Little carried on the tannery successfully for several years, turning off 20 tons of sole leather annually. He also carried on a saw mill producing 500,000 feet of lumber annually. He also manufactured a great quantity of bedsteads.

Littleville has a post-office and has usually maintained a country store. The meeting-house, now in possession of the Baptists, was built by Congregationalists, and was subsequently maintained as a union church. It was built about 1845. The early preachers were Rev. D. N. Merritt, Rev. I. J. DeVoe, Rev. Daniel Foster, Rev. Mr. Conklin.

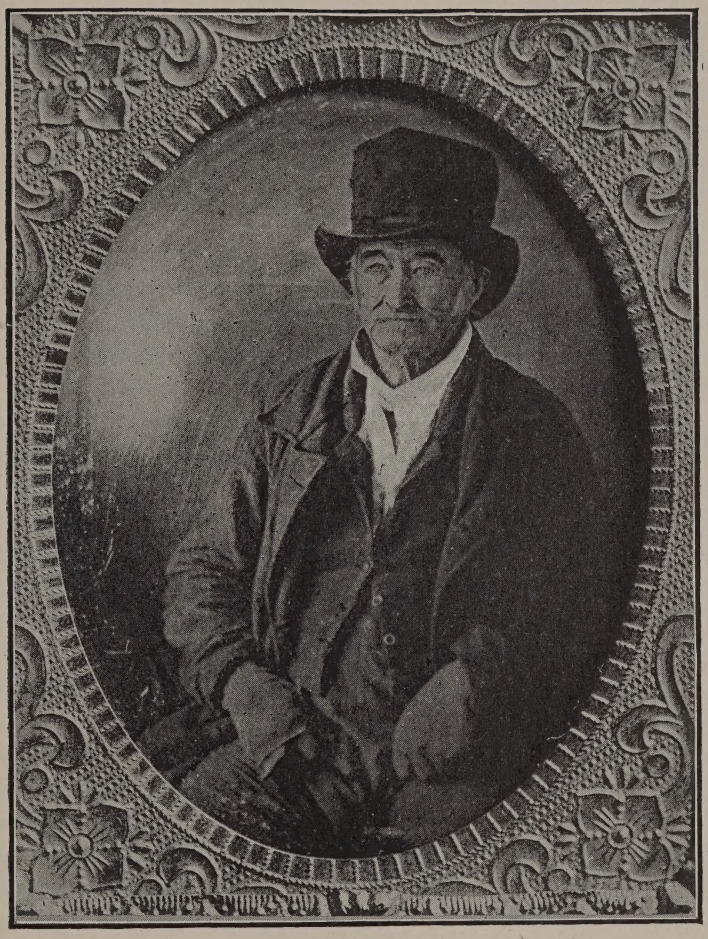
Chester Village.—The Falleys came to Chester before the close of the 18th century and settled within what was known as Bolton grant in the southeast corner of Chester where the towns of Chester, Norwich and Blandford met. They established a store and a hotel, and the place was known as Falley's X

Roads. Richard Falley's name appears on the valuation list of Murrayfield in the year 1782. Before 1810 Daniel Falley and Jesse Farnham carried on a country store under the style of Falley and Farnham. The first tavern was kept in the small house under the hill on the north side of the road leading to Blandford. The Falleys subsequently built the tavern more recently known as the Collins tavern, on the spot now occupied by the "Parks House". They also had a potash factory a short distance westerly from the present Baptist meeting-house.

Early in the 19th century there was a hat factory carried on by a man named Woolworth. Daniel Granger, well known here for many years, learned the business of hat making of Mr. Woolworth, and at one time carried on the business himself.

There was a carding mill about a mile west of the village on the north bank of the west branch of Westfield river. There was a saw mill owned by Edward Pitcher, and near it a tannery owned and carried on by Eliphalet Williams. These were located about half way between the present woolen mill and the dam. Mr. Woolworth owned and carried on a tannery nearly opposite Mr. Williams' tannery on the north side of the river. Tanning business in this vicinity was profitable in the first half of the 19th century, and there were many tanneries in Chester and other towns in this part of the state, and they consumed great quantity of hemlock bark, until its scarcity put an end to the business. William Lindsey became a partner in business with Mr. Woolworth, and after a few years was sole proprietor, and he continued the business until about 1830. Shortly after this time he built a hotel on the Blandford side of the line between that town and Chester. At this time the place was known by the name of Chester Village, although the post-office continued to be called Falley's X Roads, and the mail bags were so marked as late as the 40's and after the name Chester Village applied to both the village and the post-office.

Some time about 1820 William Wade and Daniel Collins established a cotton mill at Chester Village which was in operation as late as 1836; but it was given up about 1840, and the property sold to Melvin Copeland in 1842. From that date the property was used for other purposes as will appear later on.



Duty Underwood

A familiar character in Chester history

Mr. Wade established a store at the intersection of the road to Blandford with the main highway from Chester to Westfield. As late as 1842 this store was carried on by T. S. Wade, who was also the first station agent at Chester Village for the "Western railroad". He was succeeded both as station agent and as storekeeper by Edward Jessup, who left Chester Village in 1843. Daniel Fry succeeded him as station agent.

The village blacksmith was Elijah Rice, one of the many unique characters in Chester, the picture of one of whom, Duty Underwood, graces this page.

About 1½ miles west of Chester village where the road turns off toward Chester Centre, was a small tavern built by Pearly Cook, and he was the landlord. In the upper story of this tavern was a Masonic lodge room, which was maintained until the anti-Masonic excitement.

Prior to 1835 the people of this village were obliged to travel several miles to attend church. September 1, 1835, Daniel Collins, Leonard Williams, Lewis Collins, Daniel Collins, jr., Horace Taylor, William Lindsey, William Leonard, Henry E. Bigelow, Pearly Cook, Hugh Kelso, Daniel Lewis, Daniel L. Champlin, Martin Phelps, jr., Abel Babcock, jr., Levi Ellsworth, David P. Tinker, Nathan Ellsworth, Duty Underwood, Jonathan Nye, Asa Wilcox, Ira Lindsey, Daniel Granger, Nathan W. Robins, Reuben L. Bromley, Cyrus Culver, Heman Lindsey, John Sisk, Camden H. Babcock, William Culver, Naham Stowell, Andrew Johnson, Gilbert S. Lewis, Gilbert Collins, and E. T. and T. S. Wade, people residing some in Chester village, some in Norwich, some in Blandford, and others in various localities in Chester, subscribed the aggregate sum of $1,050 for the purpose of building a meeting-house; agreeing "That when a sufficient amount of funds shall be subscribed each subscriber shall designate to what society his subscription shall belong; and whatever society shall subscribe the greatest amount, then said house shall be called by that name and be occupied by said society so subscribing at any time they may choose; but it shall at all times when not so occupied be open and free to any Christian denomination for the performance of public worship." The meeting-house

was finished late in the autumn of 1836. The conditions that were to determine to which denomination the control of the meeting-house should come, were fulfilled by the Methodists. It does not appear that any regular clergyman was employed, nor does it appear what clergymen preached there, until about 1842 or 1843, when a young Methodist clergyman of the name of Braman officiated as the regular preacher. Rev. Mr. Merrill, also Rev. J. Marcey, in the years 1847-8, preached there. About 1846 Mr. Cook preached Sundays and practiced dentistry during the week.

In 1843 a number of people belonging to the Congregational denomination came to Chester village, and soon there came a demand for a Congregational clergyman. A compromise was effected which gave the pulpit of the Congregationalists every alternate Sunday and to the Methodists the other alternate Sundays. This did not last long. The Methodists insisted upon their absolute control. And in 1848 the Congregationalists organized a society by themselves and built a church. Rev. Perkins K. Clark was the first minister settled over the new church. Mr. Clark left about 1850 and was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Eggleston, who in a year or two was succeeded by Rev. Townsend Walker.

Physicians.—Dr. Leonard Williams was, probably, the first physician located at Chester village.

Dr. Martin Phelps, who died in 1838 at the age of 80, spent the last years of his life a short distance west of the village.

Dr. James Holland practiced in Chester village for a short time before settling in Westfield.

Dr. Charles Holland practiced in Chester village from about 1840 to about 1850.

Dr. Crossett was in practice in the village several years until his death.

Dr. Noah S. Bartlett was in practice at the time the village was set off into the town of Norwich.

Lawyers.—The first lawyer known to live in Chester village was Samuel Johnson, as remarkable an individual in many ways as old Dr. Johnson himself. He has been described as a "large,

good-looking man of over six feet in height and more than two hundred pounds avoirdupois, erect in form and dignified in his carriage, stately and formal in his address, deep-toned and deliberate in his utterances, impressing a beholder with the belief that he possessed all the wisdom that he pretended to have, and perhaps something more.'' He was as unique in dress as in person.

About 1850 Homer Clark was in practice for a few years. While Mr. Clark was in the village, Daniel Granger opened an office and was the village lawyer at the time the name was changed to Huntington.

Manufacturing.—In 1842 Melvin Copeland, who had carried on the business of plane making for several years in Hartford, where he had become a man of influence not only in business and in politics, but also in church relations, being a deacon in Dr. Hawes' church, and at one time the editor of a newspaper called ''The American Protector'', came to Chester Village and purchased the old cotton factory, and transferred his business from Hartford to Chester. He was induced to this move not only by reason of the excellent water power and building well adapted to his business, but as well because an abundance of excellent beech timber grew in this vicinity, and he was also influenced by his love for country life to which this wonderfully picturesque place strongly appealed. He brought with him ten or twelve of his old workmen, and for several years he did a prosperous business.

In 1843, his brother, Alfred Copeland, came from Columbus, Ohio, and established the business of manufacturing bedsteads and also general wood-turning; and for several years he did a prosperous business, employing about a dozen workmen. This business occupied the first floor of the old cotton factory.

Soon after the Copelands had became well established in business, two brothers, Warner Hannum and Harvey Hannum, who had been manufacturers of axes for a long time on Norwich Hill, so called, moved their business to Chester Village and purchased of Melvin Copeland an interest in the mill privilege and erected an axe factory near by and did a thriving business.

James G. Allen established a shop for the making and repairing of wagons about 1845, and a Mr. Hinkley came from Florence shortly after and started a blacksmith shop in company with Francis Axtell from the same place. After a short time Hinkley sold out to Axtell and went elsewhere.

A year or two afterward, Benjamin F. Whipple came from Florence and started the manufacture of doors, window-sash and window-blinds in the second story of the ax factory.

About this time a paper mill was established in Russell, about one and a half miles from Chester Village, by Burbank and Fales, which was a great help to the store-keepers in the village.

Roland S. Bartlett, a practical basket-maker, in company with Daniel Copeland, a brother of Melvin and Alfred, started a basket factory on the east branch, and continued business until Mr. Copeland's death; after which Mr. Bartlett established a factory in company with L. B. Williams, who subsequently removed the business to Northampton.

Then were three common country stores: The old Wade store was carried on by Lyman Dimock and Harvey Hannum, under the style of Dimock and Hannum; the old Falley store came into the possession of Daniel Collins, jun., and Jabin B. Williams, under the style of Collins and Williams, about 1840, and later the business became J. B. Williams and son, and then Williams and Clark; and about 1845, a store was built on the east side of the river at the end of the bridge, and the firm was Munson Clark, and later Charles Munson.

About 1847, Samuel T. Lyman set up a stove store in connection with a tin-shop.

Chester A. Dewey, who came from Hartford, Conn., opened a boot and shoe store.

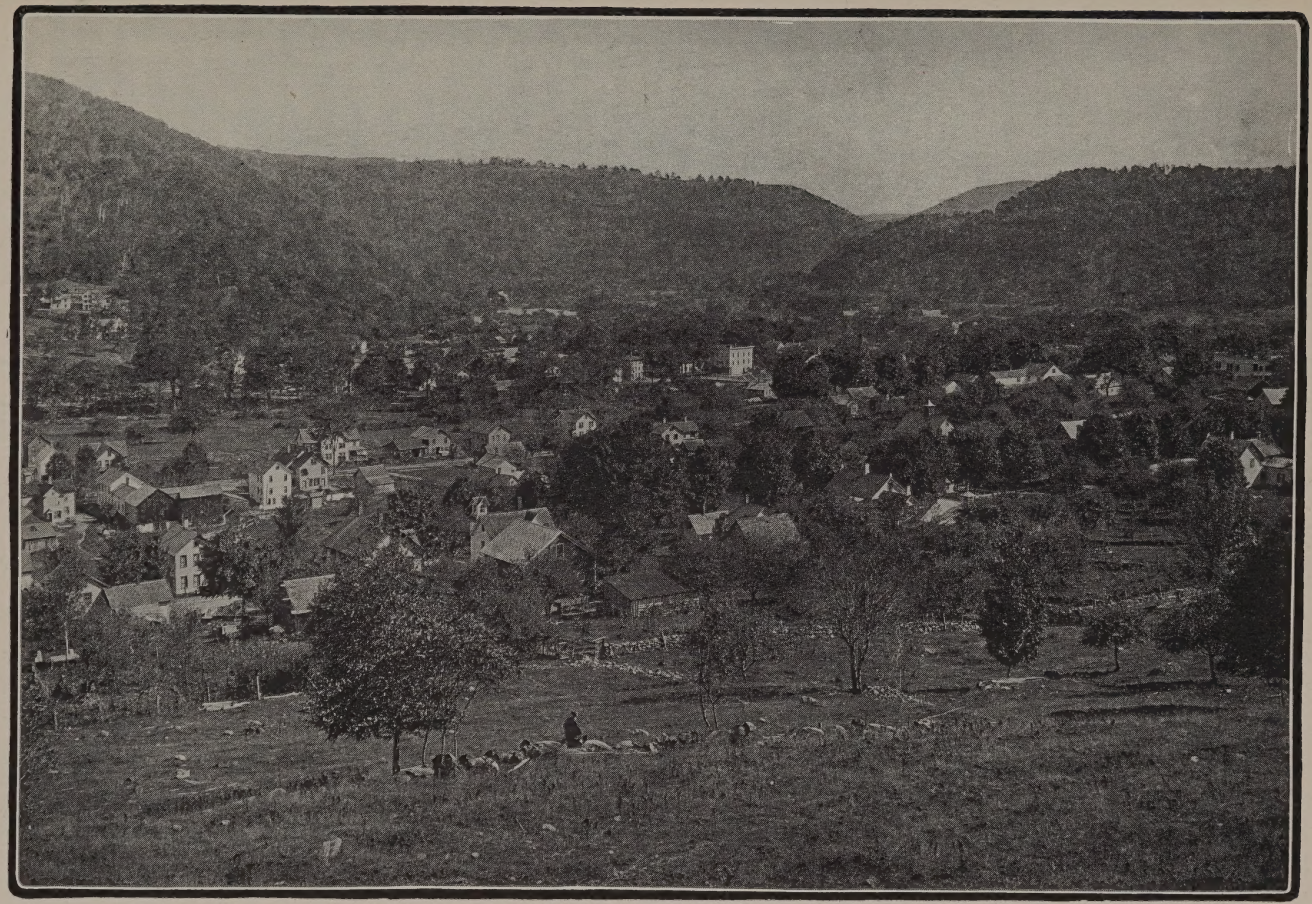
The village tailors were N. Samuels, who did a paying business; and about 1845, William S. Tinker opened a tailor's shop and continued in the business until after the village was set off to Norwich.

Chester Village was a business center for a large territory, reaching not only into Chester, but into Norwich and Worth-

ington and Chesterfield and Montgomery and Blandford and Russell, chiefly because of its convenient railroad shipping facilities.

During the time from about 1843 to the time of the civil war, there were in this village, considering its population, an unusual number of men of more than ordinary ability, potential factors in the social, religious, and intellectual life of the place, as well as in its business prosperity. It must be remembered that this village was on the border of Blandford and at the southeast corner of Chester and the southwest corner of Norwich; that the voting population was distributed between these three towns; that the school house was in the centre of the village, and the money for the support of schools came from three different towns. This proved more or less embarrassing to the inhabitants, and about 1850 effort was made to establish a new town by taking territory from these different towns. This was bitterly opposed by the towns of Chester and Norwich. After two or three ineffectual efforts before the legislature, they finally asked that the territory including the village be annexed to Norwich. By an act of the legislature, May 25, 1853, parts of Blandford and Chester were annexed to Norwich, and the name was changed from Norwich to Huntington, March 9, 1855. From the time of this annexation Chester village became a part of the county of Hampshire, and the name Chester village a thing of the past.

Chester Factories.—The village known as Chester Factories, now the village of Chester, is located in the southwesterly part of the town. This part of the town was not much settled until after the revolutionary war. The village received its name from a glass factory incorporated in 1814. The incorporators of the "Chester Glass Company" were Jesse Famam, Harvey Champion, John Dewey, Charles Douglass, Thomas Mather, David King, Lester King, Benjamin Hastings and others. This enterprise did not survive long after the close of the war with Great Britain. The first mills operated at Chester Factories were saw mills and grist mills. Tanning business was carried on successfully for many years; the first one is said to have been put in operation in the early part of the 19th century by Spencer Clark,



A Birdseye View of the Town of Chester

who after operating it a few years sold out to Col. Edwards of Northampton, and later it came into the hands of Edmund Hubbard, and it was in the Hubbard family for many years. The Hubbards were succeeded by Loring and Leach. Loring and Leach were succeeded by Nelson and Rice. George D. Hapgood was associated in the business with Loring and Rice and at last became the owner, carrying on the business under the name of George D. Hapgood & Son until it was finally given up. The plant is now used by the Emery Co. as a part of its works. The tanning business was closed out several years ago.

In the early part of the 19th century before the "Western Railroad," so called, was built, Isaac Stevens established a tavern, which later became the property of Col. Henry, who enlarged the building, and about 1840 sold out to Joseph Lazell, who kept the hotel for many years. It is now owned by William H. Day.

The first store established in Chester Factories was started by William Shepard and Hiram Barber, who carried on business under the name of Shepard & Barber. About 1840 David Cannon bought out Barber's interest, and the firm became Shepard & Cannon, and subsequently David Cannon became sole owner for a short time, when he took in a partner and the firm became Cannon & Heath; but finally the store passed into the possession of Timothy Keefe, who carried on the business successfully for many years, and it is now carried on by his son, James Keefe.

The main river, west branch of Westfield river, and the many brooks that flow down the mountains and into it at and in the vicinity of Chester Factories, the most important of which, Walker brook, flows from a southwesterly direction and enters the main river in the village, afford abundant water power. Many saw mills were started in the early part of the 19th century on these streams, even before the railroad was built, and several other kinds of business were started besides the tannery. Timothy Fay made pocket-combs of wood, which were in common use in those days; nearly every man and boy carried a pair of pocket-combs. These combs were also made by Edwin Wilcox,

An Early Winter View in Chester

who also made bedsteads and had a saw mill as a part of his establishment, and also made cardboards.

A man named Willcutt had a turning shop and made bobbins. Another named Willcutt manufactured padlocks.

Erastus Fay owned and operated a saw mill on Walker brook. Col. Samuel Henry established a grist mill on Walker brook early in the 19th century. He was succeeded in the business by Henry D. Wilcox, and later the mill was owned and operated by Bradford W. Palmer, and it is now carried on by William Gamwell.

The tannery was located on the same brook, as was also the saw mill and bedstead factory of William Fay. Another bedstead factory was located on the main river and carried on by Timothy Keefe. The hillsides and the mountains in the vicinity of Chester Factories are heavily wooded with maple, beech, birch and other timber suitable for the industries above named; and the building of the railroad gave new impulse to all kinds of business in this vicinity.

The extension of the railroad that had been opened from Boston to Springfield was called the Western railroad. The grading of this road was put under contract in 1838. The running of cars from Springfield to Chester Factories was begun May 24, 1841, and thence to the summit at Washington the following September. The heavy part of the grade to the summit begins at Chester Factories, and it necessitates keeping additional locomotives to help trains up to the summit, and this necessitates an engine house and additional help to operate them. Chester Factories was the half-way station between Springfield and Pittsfield. All trains stopped here, and in many respects it is one of the important stations on the road. For many years there was but a single track. For many years a refreshment table was kept at the station, and all trains stopped long enough for passengers to lunch.

About the time the railroad began operation L. M. and A. C. Root built a store near the railroad station and did a successful business. The store is now carried on by George Pease.

At the present time there are about half a dozen stores in Chester Factories, besides a drug store. The village is a business

centre for parts of Chester, Middlefield, Becket, Blandford and Otis.

In Dr. Edward Hitchcock's report of the geology of Massachusetts, published in 1841, he states, on page 194, that "In the western part of Chester, near the bed of serpentine and soapstone already described, not far from the Western Railroad, are several beds of magnetic oxide of iron." Dr. Herman S. Lucas, who came to Chester Factories and began the practice of his profession in 1844, became interested in mineralogy. It is altogether probable that he was familiar with Dr. Hitchcock's report and with the statement above quoted referring to magnetic iron in Chester. Dr. Lucas discovered this vein about 1850, or perhaps earlier, and specimens of it were on exhibition at the railroad station at Chester Factories. Specimens of it were sent to the iron furnaces at Stockbridge and Lenox, but it failed to work as iron ore. About 1863 Dr. Lucas and his brother, John E. Lucas, in company with Henry D. Wilcox, attempted to work it in a blast furnace, but the experiment was unsuccessful. Soon after this the property passed into the hands of a Boston company represented by John B. Taft, and in which Dr. Lucas was interested. It was while in the hands of this company that this vein of supposed magnetic iron was discovered to be emery. I quote from Prof. Emerson's *Geology of Old Hampshire County* the following: "The credit of the discovery and its first announcement belongs to D. C. T. Jackson. I remember how Prof. Shepard, when taking my college class through the cabinets in 1865, stopped at the old state geological collection made by President Hitchcock during his survey of Massachusetts, and took down the specimen of magnetite collected from the Chester bed and pointed out to us the emery which it contained, to show us how near Dr. Hitchcock had been to numbering this among his many discoveries." This quotation is deemed necessary to correct a general impression prevailing in Chester and vicinity that Dr. Lucas made the discovery that this vein was emery. Dr. Jackson's discovery gave rise to the emery mining, and in 1868 the Hampden Emery company was formed, in which Dr. Lucas, S. A. Bartholomew and Dr. Jackson were interested. A few

years later this company made a conveyance to the Chester Iron company, afterwards the Chester Emery company, a stock company controlled by James T. Ames of Chicopee. Out of this conveyance and the conduct of the old company touching a vein further west, which it claimed and persisted in working, arose a lawsuit, the result of which was that the vein came into the hands of the Chester company and was worked by it, extensive buildings being erected and expensive machinery purchased. In 1879 thirty-five men were employed and 210 tons of emery were produced, valued at $20,000.

After the death of Mr. Ames the whole property, said to have cost $80,000, was purchased by Dr. Lucas for $12,000. The doctor continued the business in his own name, using Turkish emery, until May 1, 1878, when Nathan Harwood was associated with him, and they continued in business for several years. Lucas and Harwood have both died recently. But the emery works are still a leading industry in Chester.

The working of granite obtained in the town of Becket and transported to Chester Factories over a spur railroad recently put in, is another important industry.

Another industry is the grinding of quartz for use in the manufacture of porcelain.

Churches in Chester Factories.—The Second Congregational church in Chester is located in Chester Factories, and was organized in November in the year 1844, and the meeting-house was built under arrangement similar to that under which the meeting-house was built at Chester Village. The Congregational pastors have been Rev. Hubbard Beebe, from 1844 to 1846; Rev. Perkins K. Clark, from May, 1846, to May, 1849; Rev. D. Williams, from May, 1849, to May, 1850; Rev. John C. Strong, from May, 1850, to August, 1853; Rev. D. D. Osgood, 1853; Rev. Hugh Gibson, 5 months in 1855; Rev. Z. Whitmore, from 1856 to April, 1863; Rev. Selah Merrill, from May, 1863, to March, 1864; Rev. John Mills, from April, 1864, to June, 1864; Rev. Selah Merrill, from June, 1864, to September, 1864; Rev. John Mills, from October, 1864, to June, 1865; Rev. Edward A. Smith, from July, 1865, to May, 1874; Rev. Cyrus B. Whitcomb, from August,

1874, to August, 1875; Rev. Charles H. Hamlin, from February, 1876, to 1879; Rev. Samuel W. Clark, from 1879 to April, 1880; Rev. Alvin E. Todd, from October, 1880, to December, 1885; Rev. Preston Barr, 1886 to 1887; Rev. Richard Scoles, from March, 1888, to July, 1893; Rev. Thomas D. Murphy, from November, 1893, to his death in 1901; Rev. William S. Walker, July, 1901.

"In 1800 and 1801, Methodist classes were formed in Chester numbering nearly 100 members, under the labors of Ebenezer Washburn and Billy Hibbard, who preached at the house of Capt. Alexander, about two miles south of Chester Factories. The region was then embraced in 'Old Granville Circuit', and in 1802, other preachers were on the circuit, but after this the classes gradually declined, and there was no preaching for several years. From 1819 to 1842 Rev. Messrs. Andrew McCune, Samuel Eighing, John Nixon, Jefferson Haskell, Erastus Otis, Leslie, Estin, Mayo, Shepard, Nichols, Hawks, Moulton, Lewis, Cushman, Niles and Shedd were on the circuit. At the latter date the people of Chester Factories were generally Baptists. In 1843 Rev. A. A. Farr became the pastor at that village, and the church was transferred to the Troy conference. The same year a union church edifice was built, the same edifice now occupied by the Second Congregational church, and the town joined in the building for the purpose of using the basement for a school house, and it is still used for that purpose. And while the Methodist society was in occupation of this building, Rev. Messrs. Kinsman, Atkinson, S. Mattison and A. C. Hand were the preachers. The accommodation becoming too small, the Methodists built a church by themselves, which was finished and dedicated in 1847, the church, in the meantime, having gone back into the New England conference. About the time of the building of the house, the Wesleyans and Baptists ceased to have preaching. The succession of pastors following Mr. Hadd is Rev. J. B. Bigelow, 1845; Rev. A. S. Flagg, 1846; Rev. I. Marcy, 1847 and 1848; Rev. Farris Wilson, 1849; Rev, Mr. Woodbury, 1850; Rev. G. E. Chapman, 1851-52; Rev. E. S. Best, 1853; Rev. C. Wait, 1854-55; Rev. C. W. Merryfield, 1856; Rev. John Cad-

well, 1857; Rev. John Noon, 1858; Rev. F. Fisk, 1859-60; Rev. E. D. Winslow, 1861; Rev. L. N. Clark, 1862; Rev. George Hewes, 1863; Rev. William D. Bridge, 1864; Rev. E. J. Moore, 1865-66; Rev. J. F. Bassett, 1867; Rev. J. W. Fenn, 1868; Rev. William Gordon, 1869-70-71; Rev. L. A. Bosworth, 1872-73; Rev. E. Burlingham, 1874-75; Rev. J. B. Bigelow, 1876-77; Rev. A. R. Nichols, 1878; Rev. F. M. Miller, 1879; Rev. John Galbraith, 1880-81; Rev. F. George, 1882; Rev. William P. Blackmer, 1883-84; Rev. C. H. Walters, 1885-86; Rev. S. A. Bragg, 1887-88; Rev. B. F. Kingsley, 1889-90-91; Rev. W. H. Dockham, 1892-93; Rev. Robert Smith, 1894-95; Rev. A. Beal, 1896; Rev. J. A. Betcher, 1897-98-99; Rev. T. J. Judge, 1900-1901.

In February, 1854, at the time of an intense excitement on the subject of temperance with a crusade against liquor sellers, the Methodist meeting-house was blown up with powder in revenge for the part taken by leading members of the Methodist church. The building was repaired so as to be reopened on the 6th of the following August. At that time the church membership was about fifty.

Burial Places.—The first was at Chester Centre within the 8-acre plat laid out "for a meeting-house place, training field and burial place." The first meeting-house was erected in 1767, and the burial ground was established when the first grave was made, and that was the grave of Abigail, wife of John Smith, who died August 12, 1767. This cemetery has been in constant use from that day to this. Within a few years past it has been greatly improved and is in excellent condition. There is one at North Chester, one at Littleville, one between Dayville and Littleville, one near the Bromley place on the road from Norwich Bridge to Chester Centre, one in the Ingalls neighborhood, the Bell family burial lot, the old cemetery at Chester Factories, still in use, and the Pine Hill cemetery recently established.

Schools.—There are nine school houses in the town, one at the Centre, one at North Chester, one at Littleville, one in the Bromley neighborhood, one north of Chester Centre, one in the Ingalls neighborhood, one at the Mica Mills on the river road from Huntington to Chester Factories, one at Round Top, and two at Chester Factories.

The public schools have always been well looked after in Chester. Expenditures for schools during the past year amounted to about $6,600.

There is a public library at Chester Factories containing 2,634 volumes. The trustees are Timothy Keefe and Frank Fay.

The village of Chester Factories is equipped with a good water service, and with an electric light service.

There are two hotels, the old hotel now kept by William H. Day, and the White hotel near the railroad station, kept by William R. White.

Lawyers.—Marshall Wilcox, when a young man and located in Otis, had an office in Chester and spent a portion of each week here. He was succeeded by Henry D. Filley, a son of Lester Filley of Otis, one of the well known lawyers of Berkshire county.

Franklin D. Richards was there several years in the fifties. He was succeeded by Edward H. Lathrop, who came to Chester about 1861.

Clayton D. Smith, a native of Chester, has been located at Chester Factories several years.

Physicians.—Dr. Heman S. Lucas settled in Chester as a practicing physician in 1844. Since that date the following named physicians have practiced in Chester Factories: Dr. Hill, Dr. Brewster, Dr. Fay, Dr. Fiske, Dr. Couch, Dr. Howe.

The physicians now in practice are Dr. Howard E. Wilson, Dr. Oscar J. Shepardson and Dr. Markham.

In Barber's "Historical Collection of Massachusetts", published in 1839, is the following touching Chester: "Population, 1,290. In 1837 there were 2 cotton mills; cotton spindles, 1,690; cotton goods manufactured, 225,000 yards; value, $22,075; males employed, 13; females, 22. There were 1,055 Saxony sheep, 2,495 merino, and 170 of other kinds of sheep; average weight of fleece, 2 and three-fourth pounds; value of wool produced, $5,817.38; capital invested, $11,347. There were 3 tanneries; hides tanned, 33,500; value of leather tanned and curried, $10,900; the value of window blinds manufactured, $15,000; males employed, 14; females, twenty-six".

Population.—In 1776, 405; 1790, 1,119; 1800, 1,542; 1810, 1,534; 1820, 1,526; 1830, 1,407; 1840, 1,632; 1850, 1,521; 1860, 1,314; 1870, 1,256; 1875, 1,396; 1880, 1,473; 1885, 1,318; 1890, 1,295; 1895, 1,429; 1900, 1,450.

CIVIL LIST OF CHESTER

Representatives to the General Court.—1775, Enoch Shepard; 1780, Timothy Lyman; 1782, Jesse Johnson.

February 21, 1783, the name of the town was changed from Murrayfield to Chester, and the representatives elected after that until 1812 were: Reuben Hatton, Elijah Blackman, John N. Parmenter.

Selectmen Prior to the Division of Murrayfield.—1766-67, Timothy Smith, John Smith, Malcom Henry; 1768, Caleb Fobes, Timothy Smith, William Miller; 1769, Ebenezer Meacham, James Hamilton, Abner Smith; 1770, John Kirtland, Timothy Smith, David Scott; 1771, Timothy Smith, Samuel Matthews, Edward Wright; 1772, Malcom Henry, David Shepard, John Kirtland; 1773, Malcom Henry, John Kirtland, David Shepard, Abner Smith.

Town Clerks.—1766, Malcom Henry; 1768, John Smith; 1771-4, David Shepard. The act setting off the district of Norwich was passed June 29, 1773, and on the 16th of August following a town meeting was held in Murrayfield, at which vacancies in town offices caused by such division of the town were filled, and the board of selectmen for the remainder of the year stood thus: Malcom Henry, David Shepard, Abner Smith, Wm. Campbell; 1774-75, Jesse Johnson, James Hamilton, David Shepard; 1776, David Shepard, James Hamilton, Timothy Lyman; 1777, Enoch Shepard, James Hamilton, Timothy Lyman; 1778, Timothy Lyman, James Hamilton, John Blair; 1779, Jesse Johnson, Timothy Lyman, John Blair; 1780, Timothy Smith, John Blair, Jesse Johnson; 1781, John Kelso, Samuel Jones, Samuel Bell; 1782, John Blair, William Campbell, Jabez Tracy.

After the Name was Changed from Murrayfield to Chester.—1783, John Blair, William Campbell, Timothy Lyman; 1784, Timothy Lyman, John N. Parmenter, William Stone; 1785,

William Campbell, Timothy Lyman, Gershom Rust; 1786, Elijah Blackman, Timothy Lyman, Noadiah Seaward; 1787-88, James Hamilton, Nathan Wright, William Sizer; 1789, Timothy Lyman, James Hamilton, John Elder; 1790-91, David Shepard, Timothy Lyman, John N. Parmenter; 1792, Timothy Lyman, Ephraim Miller, John N. Parmenter; 1793, John N. Parmenter, Timothy Lyman, Eleazer Wales; 1794, Timothy Lyman, Abraham Day, John N. Parmenter; 1795, David Shepard, Timothy Lyman, Abraham Day; 1796, John N. Parmenter, Timothy Lyman, Jason Wright; 1797, David Shepard, Ozias French, Ephraim Miller; 1798, Juda Willey, Elisha Wilcox, David Shepard, Zadock Ingall, William Toogood; 1799, Samuel Bell, Jason Wright, Juda Willey; 1800-4, Asa Slayton, William Elder, Simon C. Holland; 1805, William Elder, Sylvester Emmons; 1806, Asa Slayton, Jacob Day, Samuel Bell; 1807, Samuel Bell, Seth Phelps, Silas Freeman; 1808, Samuel Bell, Sylvester Emmons, Silas Freeman, jr., Silas Kingsley, Daniel Smith; 1809, Sylvester Emmons, John N. Parmenter, William Wade; 1810, Sylvester Emmons, John N. Parmenter, William Taylor; 1811, Sylvester Emmons, William Taylor, Horace Smith; 1812, Sylvester Emmons, William Taylor, Horace Smith; 1813, William Taylor, Horace Smith, William Wade; 1814 William Taylor, Horace Smith, William Wade; 1815, Samuel Bell, John Ellis, Samuel White; 1816, Samuel Bell, John Ellis, Ebenezer Whipple; 1817, Samuel White, James Nooney, jr., Asa Wilcox; 1818, Samuel White, James Nooney, jr., Asa Wilcox; 1819, Sylvester Emmons, Asa Wilcox, James Nooney, jr.; 1820, Sylvester Emmons, Asa Wilcox, Sylvester Belden; 1821, Asa Wilcox, Sylvester Belden, Isaac Whipple; 1822, Isaac Whipple, James Nooney, jr., Charles Collins; 1823, Isaac Whipple, James Nooney, jr., Charles Collins; 1824, Isaac Whipple, James Nooney, jr., Charles Collins; 1825, Charles Collins, Samuel B. Stebbins, John Hamilton; 1826, Charles Collins, John Taylor, James Elder; 1827, James Elder, Timothy Lyman, Forbes Kyle; 1828, Forbes Kyle, Moses Gamwell, William Henry; 1829, Moses Gamwell, Samuel B. Stebbins, Norid Elder; 1830, William Shepard, Lewis Collins, William Henry; 1831, William Henry, John Hamilton, Jonas

Parmenter; 1832, Jonas Parmenter, Hector Campbell, William Shepard; 1833, Jonas Parmenter, Hector Campbell, Otis Taylor; 1834, Jonas Parmenter, Hector Campbell, Otis Taylor; 1835, Jonas Parmenter, Hector Campbell, Otis Taylor; 1836, Samuel Bell, Hector Campbell, Thomas F. Plunkett; (Plunkett moved out of town and Jonas Parmenter succeeded.) 1837, William Shepard, Samuel Bell, Isaac Stevens; 1838, Samuel Bell, Isaac Stevens, William Moore; 1839, Isaac Stevens, William Moore, Reuben L. Bromley; 1840, Forbes Kyle, Reuben L. Bromley, Samuel Henry; 1841, Jotham Clark, Samuel Henry, Adam Hamilton; 1842, Jonas Parmenter, Cheney Ingall, Camden H. Babcock; 1843, Cheney Ingall, Benjamin Little, Rufus Tinker; 1844, Samuel Bell, Jonas Parmenter, Eli Knox; 1845, Jabin B. Williams, Forbes Kyle, Joshua Bemis; 1846, David Smith, Camden H. Babcock, Leverett Knox; 1847, Cheney Ingall, Daniel Fry, Edwin Wilcox; 1848, Daniel Fry, David Cannon, David Smith; 1849-50, Daniel Fry, David Cannon, David Smith, Jonas Parmenter, Ely Wilcox; 1851-55, Abner Sampson, John Bemis, Ely Howe, Samuel Stebbins, David Smith, Alvan Rude, Henry Dewey, Adam Hamilton; 1856, Albert E. Wright, B. B. Eastman, Silas P. Searl; 1857, David Smith, O. W. Gibbs, Joshua Bemis; 1858, David Smith, Charles W. Knox, Joshua Bemis; 1859, David Smith, Charles W. Knox, John Carrington; 1860, David Smith, Joshua Bemis, Samuel Stebbins; 1861-62, Charles W. Knox, Joseph C. Kelso, E. D. Ormsby; 1863, E. D. Ormsby, Charles W. Knox, Alfred S. Foot; 1864, Charles W. Knox, Alfred S. Foot, Joseph Kelso; 1865, Charles W. Knox, George C. Williams, B. B. Eastman; 1866-7, Charles W. Knox, Charles M. Bell, George Taylor; 1868, Charles W. Knox, Charles M. Bell, Amos S. Cone; 1869, Charles M. Bell, Amos S. Cone, Ely Wilcox; 1870, Charles W. Knox, David Smith, Joshua Bemis; 1871, Henry D. Wilcox, David Smith, Amos S. Cone; 1872, Charles W. Knox, Charles M. Bell, Amos S. Cone; 1873, James King, E. F. Pease, Amos S. Cone; 1874, Charles W. Knox, Charles M. Bell, Amos S. Cone; 1875-6, Charles W. Knox, Alpheus Willcutt, Amos S. Cone; 1877-8, Charles M. Bell, Alpheus Willcutt, J. H. Fiske; 1879, Charles H. Warner, George

H. Hapgood, Jason H. Fiske; 1880, Charles H. Knox, Charles M. Bell, Stephen W. Moore; 1881, James A. Jones, Alpheus Willcutt, Amos S. Cone; 1882, Charles H. Knox, Alpheus Willcutt, Amos S. Cone; 1883, Charles H. Knox, Alfred S. Foot, Joshua W. Bemis; 1884-5-6, Charles H. Knox, Alfred S. Foot, Joshua W. Bemis; 1887, Charles H. Knox, Moses Clark, Joshua W. Bemis; 1888, Charles H. Knox, Moses Clark, Joshua W. Bemis; 1889, Major A. Snow, Moses Clark, Clarence M. Woods; 1890-1, Major A. Snow, Moses Clark, Joshua W. Bemis; 1892, Moses Clark, Major A. Snow, Clarence M. Woods; 1893, Major A. Snow, Clarence M. Woods, Edward L. Higgins; 1894, Clayton D. Smith, Clarence M. Woods, Edward L. Higgins; 1895-6, George H. Hapgood, Edward L. Higgins, Clarence M. Woods; 1897, George H. Hapgood, Clarence M. Woods, Charles Z. Ingall; 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, George H. Hapgood, Clarence M. Woods, Charles Z. Ingall.

Town Clerks After Division of the Town.—1774-7, Samuel Matthews; 1777-98, David Shepard; 1798-1806, Gideon Matthews, jr.; 1806, Sylvester Emmons; 1807-9, Martin Phelps; 1809 to 1815, Anson Boise; 1816, Samuel Phelps; 1817, William Henry; 1818, Isaiah L. Baker; 1819 to 1825, William Henry; 1826-27-28, Ashael Wright; 1829-30-31, Hector Campbell; 1832-33-34-35-36, Forbes Kyle; 1837-38-39-40, Otis Taylor; 1841, David B. Tinker; 1842, Otis Taylor; 1843, George Whitney; 1844, Otis Taylor; 1845, George Whitney; 1846, Otis Taylor; 1847-48, Aurelius C. Root; 1849, Henry D. Filley, who died and was succeeded by Aurelius C. Root; 1850 to '52, Otis Taylor; 1853, John B. Elder; 1854, Camden H. Babcock; 1855, John B. Elder; 1856, Charles W. Knox; 1857, Franklin D. Richards; 1858, Otis Taylor; 1859-60, Camden H. Babcock; 1861-2, Christopher C. Campbell; 1863 to 1871, Timothy Keefe; 1872 to 1902, George N. Cone.

The list of Chester men who served in the civil war, so far as can be ascertained, is as follows: Samuel L. Atwood, 31st Mass.; Joseph S. Bemis, 34th Mass.; Edward D. Bemis, 62d N. Y.; Edson D. Bemis, 31st Mass.; Watson Carr, 27th Mass.; Eli Carter, 36th N. Y.; Wilman W. Clark, 31st Mass.; Andrew

Crow, 10th Mass.; Frank J. Childs, 10th Mass.; Franklin W. Dewey, 10th Mass.; Oscar D. DeWolf, surg., 1st Mass. Cav.; D. Albert Fairfield, 34th Mass.; George Garland, 10th Mass.; Peter E. Herbert, 10th Mass.; George W. Howe, 10th Mass.; Luke Havey, 31st Mass.; Martin Kennedy, 22d Mass.; William Meacham, 10th Mass.; Michael McGratty, 34th Mass.; Dwight Mallison, 37th Mass.; Elijah Meacham, 34th Mass.; Edwin O. Messenger, 10th Mass.; Lester H. Quigley, 27th Mass.; Charles Fay, 46th Mass.; Edward E. Quigley, 31st Mass.; George F. Smith, 31st Mass.; Henry Talmage, 31st Mass.; George W. Truell, 27th Mass.; Henry Town, 99th N. Y.; Henry H. Weeks, 27th Mass.; E. D. Winslow, chaplain, 19th Mass.; George Riley, unknown; Zachariah Longley, 10th Mass.; Samuel Ladd, 27th Mass.; Henry Robinson, 27th Mass.; Charles H. Smith, 27th Mass.; Henry Raftis, 27th Mass.; Harrison Moore, 41st Ohio; Dennis Coffin, 46th Mass.; Joshua W. Bemis, 46th Mass.; Oliver C. Burr, 46th Mass.; Cyrus L. Belden, 46th Mass.; Lanson P. Carter, 46th Mass.; Joseph Chartier, 46th Mass.; Henry E. Dimock, 46th Mass.; William C. Dunham, 46th Mass.; Edward Dewey, 46th Mass.; William K. Jackson, 46th Mass.; James Keefe, 46th Mass.; Francis Otis, 46th Mass.; Albert H. Sanderson, 46th Mass.; Charles F. Smith, 46th Mass.; George W. Wright, 46th Mass. W. H. Waterman, D. B. Richmond, Edward Fitzgerald, Samuel Pease, Daniel Dowd, Joseph Whipple, Thomas Connors, James Scanlin, Horatio Holmes, John Moore and William M. Wright who died in Andersonville prison.

Soldiers of the Revolutionary War.—The town of Chester, then Murrayfield, was staunchly loyal to the cause of Independence as has been shown in an early part of this history. The minutemen who marched to Cambridge from Murrayfield in Col. Seth Pomeroy's regiment in April, 1775, were David Shepard, James Clark, Gershom Rust, John McIntire, Russell Dewey, George Williams, Nathan Wright, Benjamin Wright, John Blair, Asa Gould, Benjamin Eggleston, James Geer, Archelus Anderson. The men who enlisted and went in Col. David Brewster's regiment, 9th Continental, April 24, 1775, were Capt. Malcom Henry, Sergeant William French, William Spencer Smith,

Joseph Henry, William Foot, John Elder and Ezekiel Snow, and they were discharged the following October. John Laccore, David Blair, George Black, William Moore, Thomas Elder and Thomas Smith were in service a short time. In 1776 David Bolton, William Smith and Eli Woolworth went into service in Col. Dike's regiment. October 21, 1776, the men named below joined Col. John Mosley's regiment and marched to Mount Independence under command of Lieut. Col. Timothy Robertson: Enoch Shepard, captain; William Campbell, lieutenant; Gershom Rust, John McIntire, Nathan Wright, sergeants; John Elder, corporal; Edward Wright, fifer, and the following privates: Alexander Partridge, James Bentley, Ebenezer Freeman, Allen Geer, Thomas Elder, William Elder, Ebenezer Stowe, John Smith, Lemuel Laccore, Abner Smith and Jonathan Wait. Their term of service was 28 days.

March 1, 1777, Jehiel Eggleston and James Fobes enlisted for three years or during the war. Patrick King enlisted December 19, 1778; Elijah Brewer enlisted in July, 1780; Joseph Winter, Francis Thomas and Ebenezer Smith enlisted July 19, 1779, for nine months. John Thompson was drafted and went into Col. Mosley's regiment. In 1780, John Carlile, William Carlile, Alexander McCullen, William Harris, Timothy Smith, Jesse Wright, Elijah Brewer, James Moore, Daniel Babcock, Abraham Converse, Isaac Converse, Jude Jones, Samuel Woolworth, Nathan Matthews, Nathaniel Babcock and Primus Hill served for six months. Another list of six months men are Joseph Gilbert, Patrick King, Leonard Pigue, Noah Wilson, Moses Barr, John Carlile, William Carlile, Alexander McCullen, Joseph Winter, Timothy Smith, Jesse Wright and William Harris. Justin Rust, Samuel Rust, Quartus Rust, Edward Taylor, Archelus Anderson, Elijah Stanton, Alexander Mecla, John Curtis, Elijah Brown, enlisted in 1781.

CHAPTER XI

THE TOWN OF HOLLAND

In 1731 a considerable tract of land on the eastern border of Hampshire county, on which settlement had been made during the twenty-five years preceding that time, was made a provisional jurisdiction by the name of Brimfield. This territory was incorporated as a town in 1731, and as settlement afterward increased the creation of other districts became necessary. In 1762 the south half of Brimfield, as then constituted, was formed into a district by the name of South Brimfield, and in 1766 this southern region was itself divided into east and west parishes. On August 23, 1775, these parishes were incorporated into a town by the name of South Brimfield, and thereupon became a civil division of the county.

But it appears that the creation of the town soon gave rise to many inconveniences on account of the situation of the lands, and the welfare of the inhabitants demanded another division of the new territory. This was accomplished in 1783, when, on July 5, the general court passed "An act to incorporate the east parish of South Brimfield into a district by the name of Holland," the effective portion of which act reads as follows: "Whereas the inhabitants of the east parish in the said South Brimfield have represented to this court the many inconveniences they labor under, arising from their connection with said South Brimfield; for remedy thereof,

"Be it enacted," etc., "That all the lands and inhabitants of South Brimfield aforesaid lying and being on the east side of the county road leading from Brimfield to Union, in the state of Connecticut, called and known as the South Meadow road there,

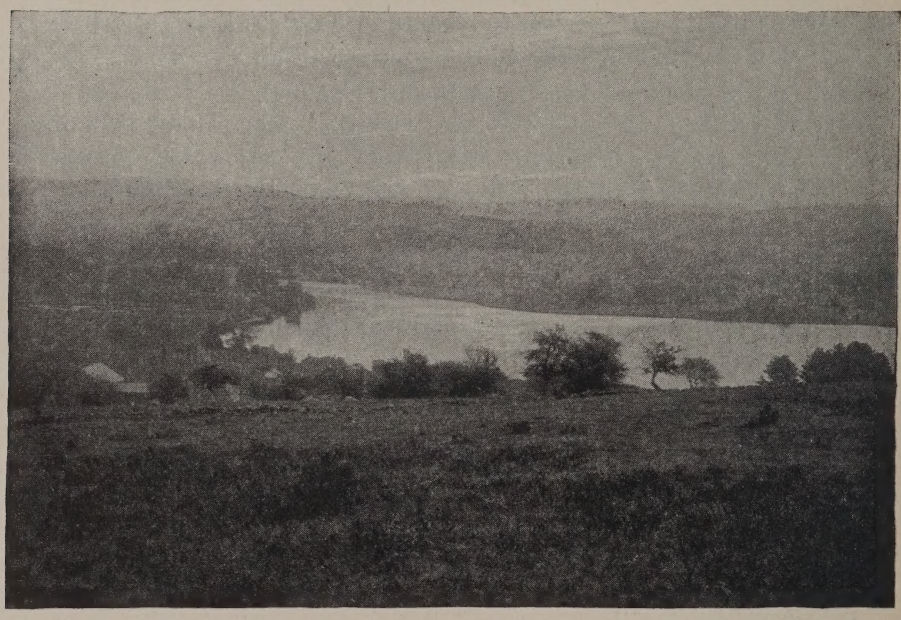
be and is hereby incorporated into a separate district by the name of Holland, and invested with all the powers, privileges and immunities that districts in this commonwealth are entittled to according to law, or do or may enjoy.'' The act also directed Abner Morgan, justice of the peace, to issue his warrant to some principal person in the new district for the purpose of assembling the inhabitants in meeting for the election of officers. Under the law the district was to all intents and purposes a town, except that it was not entitled to a separate representative in the general court; and this right was not granted until May 1, 1836.

Geographically, Holland occupies the extreme southeast corner of the county; being bounded on the east by Worcester county and on the south by the Connecticut line. The central part of the town is 69 miles distant from Boston, 28 miles from Springfield, and 12 miles from Palmer. Although its inhabitants are allied to the people of the adjoining towns in Hampden county, their associations are largely with those of Sturbridge on the east and Union on the south. These are the natural and most convenient trading places; for Holland is remotely situated from Springfield and other county markets, and communication with them is attended with many inconveniences. This situation always has worked adversely to Holland interests, as a Hampden town, and while various remedies have been suggested to relieve existing conditions none has been carried into effect, and the townsmen, consulting their personal interests, naturally turn to the localities east and south of them.

Settlement.—The early settlement of Holland was accomplished while the territory formed a part of the mother town of Brimfield, and when the latter was divided that which now constitutes this town contained nearly 300 inhabitants. However, in treating of this interesting portion of the town's history, it is difficult to separate Holland from Brimfield, for much that might be said of the latter naturally applies to the former. But it may be said, without fear of contradiction, that for more than a century Holland has been regarded as one of the most independent jurisdictions of the county, and from the period of its earliest occupancy its people have been noted for their truly

democratic customs in domestic life. This is to their honor, for here the people ever have struggled against difficulties and have not received the recognition nor advantages to which they were by right entitled. Still the town has prospered and its inhabitants by personal effort have established and maintained institutions worthy of larger towns.

According to recognized authority, the pioneer of Holland was Joseph Blodgett, one of the original proprietors and for



Holland Pond

many years one of its foremost men. When the proprietors made a division of their lands, Mr. Blodgett drew lot No. 67. This drawing was confirmed by the general court in 1732, yet the pioneer probably had established himself in the town as early as 1725. In later years he took an active interest in local affairs, filling several important offices, and he was equally earnest in his endeavors in behalf of the church. He was a surveyor as well as farmer and the records make frequent reference to his work.

His house was on the South Meadow road which led from Brimfield to Union, and which divides the towns of Holland and Wales. Pioneer Blodgett had several sons, one of whom, Jonas, was the last surveyor and clerk of the proprietors of Brimfield. He died in 1839 at the advanced age of 95 years. He was perhaps more conspicuous in town affairs than his father, and was one of the first board of selectmen, serving several years in that office. The family name Blodgett has always been represented in the town by men of character and integrity, and some of them have been chosen to places of trust and responsibility.

When the pioneer led the advance of civilized white settlement into this then remote part of Hampshire county, his action was regarded as hazardous because of the dangers which were supposed to attend life in the wild and almost unknown regions of old Brimfield. But within a short time after Joseph Blodgett had built his cabin and prepared a little tract of land for cultivation, other settlers began to come and occupy their lots, and in the course of two or three years a little settlement had sprung up. Among the comers of this period there may be mentioned the names of John Webber, Ebenezer Wallis, Enoch Hides, John Bishop, Jonathan and Robert Brown, nearly all of whom brought families and shared with the pioneer the vicissitudes of life in a new and unsettled region. These men were of sturdy New England stock, some of them descendants of Puritan ancestors, and the dangers and hardships of life in a wilderness region had few terrors for them. The surnames of many of these first settlers are still preserved in the town, and a glance at the records will show that some of them have attained to positions of importance in local history.

Continuing our narrative still further, mention may be made of the names of Henry and Trenance Webber, who came to Holland from Rhode Island about 1730, and who were descendants of Henry Webber. They and their descendants in later generations have been active factors in the history of the town. Among others of that surname there may be recalled Frank Webber, Rinaldo Webber, Samuel Webber, Adolphus Webber, Loring Webber, William A. Webber, Ezra Webber and Dwight

E. Webber, each of whom did his full share in building up the town and establishing a prosperous condition of affairs for his own family, thus contributing to the general welfare of all the town's people.

Since the earliest settlement the Wallis family has been favorably known in Holland history. Ebenezer seems to have been the pioneer, and David came about 1755. He was from Woodstock, Connecticut, a blacksmith by trade and a farmer by subsequent occupation. Among his children were several sons, the names of Thomas, Jonathan, William and John being remembered as of the number. Jonathan adopted the trade of his father, and Thomas became a physician, one of the first in Holland and a man of influence in the community. William and John Wallis were farmers. In the family of the pioneer Wallis was a grandson, David by name, a son of David, jun., the latter never having settled in this town. This younger David was a soldier in the revolution, and after the war he married Persis Rosebrook who bore him ten children. Like the Webbers, the Wallis family have been prolific in Holland and their work has been for good in all generations of their descendants.

Of the other early settlers in Holland whose names have been mentioned little is known, and it is probable that some of them soon left for homes in some other locality. James Marcy located here about 1767, and was a farmer. Among his children were several sons and daughters, the names of James, Jr., Elisha, David, Job, Sarah and Betsey being recalled at this late day. Most of these children grew up and married in the town and were contributing factors in its best history. Benjamin Perrin was an early settler about a mile south of the Centre. His sons were John, Cyril and Hallowell Perrin. John married a daughter of Ichabod Goodell, also an early settler, and had thirteen children. Later on he removed to Monson. Hallowell Perrin was a farmer and tavern keeper, and a man of prominence in early days. He, too, raised a large family, but the surname is no longer known in Holland. Ichabod Goodell (the year of his settlement here is not known) was a conspicuous figure in early Holland history. He married into the Webber family and had

four children, Huldah, Polly, Persis and Jabez. The son eventually emigrated to New York state, where he taught school, and through his excellent business capacity he acquired a fortune. He never forgot his old home and in his will left $500 to the town.

Eliphalet Janes, the first clerk of the new district formed in 1783, was a farmer and owner of a saw and grist mill, but when and whence he came is not known. In the same connection there may be recalled the names of William Belknap, an early farmer and upright townsman; Asa David, who filled several offices in the town and was especially prominent in matters pertaining to the church. He also taught school and engaged in farming until 1793, when he removed from the town. Reuben Stevens was a farmer and also a cloth dresser, and a useful man among the early settlers.

Capt. Nehemiah May, another early and prominent settler, was an officer in the revolutionary service and a man of much influence in local town and church matters. He settled in the south part of the town about 1764. Ebenezer Morris, the town blacksmith, and it is said he was an excellent workman in his time, married a daughter of Capt. May. Jonathan Cram is remembered as a man of influence and as a successful farmer. Joseph Bruce, who settled on the afterward known Howlett farm, was regarded as one of the most eccentric characters in early Holland history, yet he was a man of worth notwithstanding his pecularities. John Polley was another early settler whose name is frequently recalled as one of the town worthies more then a century ago, and whose farm home lay on the old South Meadow road between the east and west parishes. Gershom Rosebrook was a farmer and lived east of the reservoir. His family name was long preserved in the town.

In addition to those already mentioned among the early settlers, we may still further recall James Frizzell, Humphrey Cram, Jacob, Benjamin, Edward and Samuel Webber, John Rosebrook, William and Asa Belknap, Jonathan Wallis, John and James Anderson, Alfred Lyon, Daniel Burnett, Asa Dana, John Brown, Jonathan Ballard and Eleazer Moore, all of whom were conspicuous figures in town affairs about the time of the

division of Brimfield and the creation of the new districts out of its southern territory.

Those whose names are mentioned in preceding paragraphs laid the foundation for the subsequent growth of the town. They bore the hardships of life attendant upon the pioneership and early settlement, but notwithstanding all the disadvantages under which they struggled they builded well, and permanent benefits thereby accrued to their descendants and all others who afterward came to dwell in the region. There was something in the character and quality of the lands to attract settlement, and a comparison of records discloses that Holland in the early years of its history grew as rapidly in population as any of the adjoining towns. Indeed, in 1790 the town had more than double its present population, the number of inhabitants then being 428 as against 169 in 1900. This loss has not been through any fault of the people and is attributable to the same causes which have worked a like decrease in population in all towns situated as is this; and that, the tendency of later generations of young men and women to abandon the farms for the pleasures of life in the commercial centers.

The various fluctuations of population in Holland are seen in the following extracts from the census reports: In 1790 the inhabitants numbered 428; 1800, 445; 1810, 420; 1820, 453; 1830, 453; 1840, 423; 1850, 449; 1860, 419; 1865, 368; 1870, 344; 1875, 334; 1880, 302; 1885, 229; 1890, 201; 1895, 199; 1900, 169.

Civil History.—The early civil history of Holland is narrated on preceding pages and it is stated how South Brimfield was created and the east and west parishes of the latter eventually were made separate and distinct towns. The creation of the district of Holland in 1783 was necessary for the convenience of its inhabitants and while not then accorded full town powers the civil organization was made complete in that year. The act of the legislature directed Abner Morgan, justice, to issue his warrant to some principal person in the district proposed to be incorporated, and Joseph Bruce was selected for that purpose. The first town meeting in pursuance of the warrant was held July 24, 1783, on which occasion Mr. Bruce acted as moderator. Capt.

Nehemiah May, Joseph Blodgett and Alfred Lyon were chosen selectmen, and Eliphalet Janes, town clerk. A full board of officers were chosen and then Holland began making civil history. The succession of selectmen is as follows:

Selectmen.—1783, Nehemiah May, Joseph Blodgett, Alfred Lyon; 1784, William Belknap, Daniel Burnet, Jonathan Cram; 1785, Jonas Blodgett, Daniel Burnet, Nehemiah May; 1786, Joseph Bruce, Daniel Burnet, William Belknap; 1787, Jonas Blodgett, Asa Dana, Wm. Belknap; 1788, David Wallis, Asa Dana, Wm. Belknap; 1789, David Wallis, Asa Dana, John Polley; 1790, Wm. Belknap, Alfred Lyon, John Brown; 1791-93, Wm. Belknap, Asa Dana, David Wallis; 1794, Alfred Lyon, Ichabod Goodell, David Wallis; 1795, Alfred Lyon, Wm. Belknap, David Wallis; 1796, Joseph Bruce, John Polley, Halowell Perrin; 1797-8, David Wallis, John Polley, Wm. Belknap; 1799, David Wallis, Gershom Rosebrook, Rinaldo Webber; 1800, Wm. Belknap, Ichabod Goodell, Rinaldo Webber; 1801, David Wallis, Ichabod Goodell, Jonathan Ballard; 1802, David Fay, Ichabod Goodell, Ebenezer Morris; 1803, Jacob Thompson, Ichabod Goodell, Ebenezer Morris; 1804, Jacob Thompson, Ichabod Goodell, Rinaldo Webber; 1805, Jacob Thompson, John Polley, David Wallis; 1806-07, Zerial May, John Polley, David Wallis; 1808, Ebenezer Morris, Ezra Allen, Ezra Webber; 1809, Ebenezer Morris, Jacob Thompson, Samuel Webber; 1810, David Wallis, John Weaver, Ezra Webber; 1811, Edward Blodgett, James A. Lynn, Wm. Putnam; 1812, Edward Blodgett, James A. Lynn, Reuben Stevens; 1813, Edward Blodgett, Ezra Webber, Leonard Morris; 1814, Cyril Perrin, James A. Lynn, Edward Blodgett; 1815, John Weaver, David Wallis, Ezra Allen; 1816, John Weaver, Ezra Webber, Edward Blodgett; 1817, Benj. Church, Freeland Wallis, John Wallis; 1818, Samuel Webber, Freeland Wallis, Reuben Stevens; 1819-20, Samuel Webber, Elbridge G. Fuller, David B. Dean; 1821, Samuel Webber, Freeland Wallis, David B. Dean; 1822, Benj. Church, Freeland Wallis, David B. Dean; 1823, Isaac Partridge, Freeland Wallis, John Wallis; 1824-25, David B. Dean, Freeland Wallis, Benj. Church; 1826, Adolphus Webber, Freeland Wallis, Loring Webber; 1827, Reuben Stevens,

David B. Dean, Loring Webber; 1828, Leonard M. Morris, John Wallis, Baxter Wood; 1829-31, Freeland Wallis, David B. Dean, Willard Weld; 1832, Adolphus Webber, Loring Webber, Willard Weld; 1833, Willard Weld, Adolphus Webber, Elbridge G. Fuller; 1834, Freeland Wallis, Adolphus Webber, Lyman Gould; 1835, Freeland Wallis, Willard Webber, David B. Dean; 1836, Freeland Wallis, Lyman Gould, Gilbert Rosebrook; 1837, Willard Weld, Horace Wallis, Isaac W. Wood; 1838, Willard Weld, Horace Wallis, Freeland Wallis; 1839, Willard Weld, Levans McFarlin, Freeland Wallis; 1840, Adolphus Webber, Horace Wallis, Grosvernor May; 1841, Adolphus Webber, David B. Dean, Warren A. Wallis; 1842, Freeland Wallis, David B. Dean, Harrison Allen; 1843, Adolphus Webber, Willard Weld, Uriah P. Marcy; 1844, David B. Dean, Adolphus Webber, Harrison Allen; 1845, Freeland Wallis, Nehemiah Underwood, Eleazer Moore; 1846, William A. Webber, Nehemiah Underwood, Harrison Allen; 1847, John Wallis, Stephen C. Weld, John B. Gould; 1848-49, William A. Webber, Warren A. Wallis, William Frizell; 1850, Nehemiah Underwood, Uriah P. Marcy, John P. Gould; 1851, Benj. F. Wilson, Alvin Goodell, John Wallis; 1852, Eleazer Moore, Warren A. Wallis, John Wallis; 1853, Wm. A. Webber, Nehemiah Underwood, Roswell A. Blodgett; 1854, Nehemiah Underwood, William A. Webber, Uriah P. Marcy; 1855, Alvin Goodell, Eleazer Moore, George L. Webber; 1856-57, Wm. A. Webber, Warren A. Wallis, Clement B. Drake; 1858, Wm. A. Webber,, Harrison Allen, Wm. H. Harris; 1859, Warren A. Wallis; Geo. L. Webber, Eleazer Moore; 1860, Ferdinand L. Burley, Clement B. Drake, Wm. A. Harris; 1861, Ferdinand L. Burley, Wm. A. Webber, Warren A. Wallis; 1862, Ferd. L. Burley, Geo. L. Webber, Warren A. Wallis; 1863, Wm. A. Webber, Horace Wallis, R. A. Blodgett; 1864, Ferd. L. Burley, Uriah P. Marcy, J. Ballard; 1865, Wm. A. Webber, Clement B. Drake, J. A. Webber; 1866-70, Wm. A. Webber, Clement B. Drake, Uriah P. Marcy; 1871-72, Freeman B. Blodgett, Harrison Allen, Uriah P. Marcy; 1873, Clement B. Drake, F. B. Blodgett, Wm. S. Wallis; 1874, William A. Webber, Freeman B. Blodgett, R. A. Blodgett; 1875, Wm. A. Webber, F. B. Blodgett, Wm. S. Wallis;

1876, Uriah P. Marcy, F. B. Blodgett, Frank Wight; 1877-78, Wm. A. Webber, Freeman B. Blodgett, Henry Vinton; 1879, George L. Webber, Henry Vinton, Francis Wight; 1880, George L. Webber, Francis Wight, A. L. Roper; 1881, George L. Webber, Freeman B. Blodgett, A. L. Roper; 1882, Francis Wight, F. B. Blodgett, A. L. Roper; 1883, Francis Wight, Wm. L. Webber, R. A. Blodgett; 1884, Francis Wight, R. A. Blodgett, A. L. Roper; 1885, Francis Wight, R. A. Blodgett, Henry Vinton; 1886, R. A. Blodgett, A. L. Roper, George L. Webber; 1887, George L. Webber, Wm. S. Wallis, Freeman B. Blodgett; 1888-89, George L. Webber, Wm. S. Wallis, F. B. Blodgett; 1890, Francis Wight, R. A. Blodgett, Wm. S. Wallis; 1891-2, Francis Wight, Wm. S. Wallis, Freeman B. Blodgett; 1893, George L. Webber, John S. Glazier, H. E. Wallis; 1894, Geo. L. Webber, H. E. Wallis, Francis Wight; 1895, F. B. Blodgett, Francis Wight, Wm. S. Wallis; 1896, F. B. Blodgett, Wm. A. Webber, B. C. Bennett; 1897, F. B. Blodgett, D. E. Butterworth, B. C. Bennett; 1898, F. B. Blodgett, A. F. Blodgett, D. E. Butterworth; 1899, F. B. Blodgett, L. M. Howlett, H. E. Vinton; 1900, A. F. Blodgett, L. M. Howlett, C. A. Webber; 1901, L. M. Howlett, C. A. Webber, Francis Wight.

The succession of the town clerks is as follows: Eliphalet Janes, 1783-86; William Belknap, 1786-89; David Wallis, 1789; William Belknap, 1790-94; Asa Dana, 1794-98; Jonathan Ballard, 1798-1803; David Wallis 1803; Ezra Webber, 1804-9; James A. Lyon, 1809; Ezra Webber, 1810; James A. Lyon, 1811-13; Reuben Stevens, 1814; Freeland Wallis, 1815-19; David B. Dean, 1819-23; Luther Brown, 1823; David B. Dean, 1824; Freeland Wallis, 1825-27; John Wallis 1828; Samuel Frizell, 1829-33; Freeland Wallis, 1833-36; Elbridge Fuller, 1836; John Dixon, 1837; John Wallis, 1838-41; John Dixon, 1841-42; William A. Wallis, 1842-46; Warren A. Wallis, 1846; William A. Robbins, 1847-53; Warren A. Wallis, 1854-55; Freeman B. Blodgett, 1855-62; Francis Wight, 1862-65; Frank E. Kinney, 1865-73; Freeman B. Blodgett, 1873; Frank E. Kinney, 1874-89; Wm. L. Webber, 1890-1900; Arthur F. Blodgett, 1901—now in office.

The present town officers are as follows: L. M. Howlett, C. A. Webber, Francis Wight, selectmen; Arthur F. Blodgett, town

clerk; Lewis D. Durant, auditor; Arthur F. Blodgett, treasurer; Carl F. Howlett, collector; F. B. Blodgett (chm.), Henry E. Vinton, Charles A. Webber, assessors; overseers of the poor, the selectmen; constables, Oliver L. Howlett, Arthur F. Blodgett; cemetery commissioner, Freeman B. Blodgett; board of health, the selectmen; chief of police, Oliver L. Howlett; justice of the peace, William L. Webber.

Holland was so named in allusion to Charles James Fox, Lord Holland, a member of the British parliament during the revolution and one of the few earnest champions of American rights in that body.

From the earliest years of its history this has been an agricultural town. The land surface is rolling and in places is quite hilly, yet there are few areas which are unfit for cultivation. Under proper tillage the farms (and the town abounds in good ones) yield well and through intelligent effort many husbandmen have acquired a competency. The hill lands produce abundant crops of grass and afford excellent pasturage. During the stage coach era the people prospered and farmers found a ready market for the product of their lands. The old South Meadow road then was a thoroughfare of great importance and travelers were passing daily through the town; but when the railroads compelled the stages to cease operations that which for years had been of the greatest benefit to the people was taken away. In the dispensation of public improvement enterprises Holland never was favored with a railroad, and being remotely located from the county seat its inhabitants have turned to other commercial centers for conveniences of trades.

But notwithstanding the disadvantage of situation, Holland previous to about a quarter of a century ago was quite a busy town, and in its little trading center considerable business was carried on. Let us briefly refer to some of these old-time interests. As early as 1785 a store was opened by a Mr. Brown (probably Robert or John). A little later Alfred Lyon kept a stock of goods and a tavern near the reservoir dam. Still later Isaac Partridge had a store about half a mile south of the Centre. Among other and subsequent merchants there may be recalled

the names of Chase & Ward, Luther Brown, Dr. Josiah Converse, Sewell Glazier, Clement B. Drake, Elisha Kinney, Willard Weld, Orlando Anderson, Lynn & Co., Jonathan Sikes, John Carpenter and others. These stores, particularly those in existence between 1810 and 1850, did a thriving business, but when much of the trade was attracted to other localities they naturally declined until Holland people found themselves under the necessity of traveling outside for needed household supplies.

In 1784 the town licensed David Bugbee to keep tavern, and from that time a hotel generally has been maintained here. Alfred Lyon kept public house in connection with his store near the reservoir. About 1812 David Marcy built the Holland hotel and kept the same about two years. The later proprietors were John Webber, Mr. Bridgeman, Allen Tiffany, Mr. Harris, Luther Brown, E. G. Fuller, Baxter Wood, Mr. Benson, Elisha Kinney and Frank E. Kinney, about in the order mentioned. The first resident physician was Dr. Thomas Wallis, who in later years was followed by Drs. Seth Smith, Ichabod Hyde, David B. Dean, Joshua Richardson, Chileab B. Merrick, Josiah Converse and Abial Bottom, the latter, however, having removed to Wilbraham and practiced from that town. The present physician of Holland is Dr. Josiah G. Willis.

From what has been stated in preceding paragraphs it must be seen that at one time Holland had important business interests and as a producing town it held a place of prominence in the county. About 1803 Josiah Hobbs started a tannery in the southwest corner of the town and carried on business with fair success for many years. In 1828 Jedediah Healey succeeded to the property and continued its operation several more years. Afterward the building was converted into a dwelling house, and there George Haradon made boots and shoes. About the beginning of the last century two men named Paddock, father and son, the latter named John, started a furnace about half a mile below the reservoir dam and began the manufacture of iron from ore mined in the vicinity. Another similar industry for a time was conducted in the town and was located where afterward stood the Fuller cotton factory. Still another old interest was the

factory for the manufacture of cut nails, which was operated several years beginning about 1830. About the year last mentioned Elbridge G. Fuller built a mill and carried on a cotton cloth works on the road leading from Holland to East Brimfield. In its day this was an important industry in the town, but about 1855 the buildings were destroyed by fire and were not replaced. About the same time (1830) John C. Butterworth began the manufacture of cotton batting in a building erected for that purpose. Leander Bradd afterward succeeded to the business and continued it several years. In the same building Mr. Fuller made candle wicking, but about 1854 this old factory was burned.

Holland Church

Holland village, where is located the post-office, also the other business places of the town, is a small hamlet of a dozen or more dwellings and a like number of small shops, but not at any time has the place contained more than one hundred inhabitants. Here, too, is the seat of town business, the clerk's office, the public school, the Holland library and the Congregational church. Previous to 1860 it was a village of much local prominence, but with the constant decrease in population its interests have likewise declined. The present interests of the

town may be noted substantially as follows: Freeman B. Blodgett, boot and shoe maker and mason; A. J. Bagley and Anson Williams, carpenters; John D. Barney, cider mill; D. E. Butterworth, saw and grist mill; the Holland hotel; William L. Webber, justice of the peace and postmaster; D. E. Webber, painter; Dr. Josiah G. Willis, physician and surgeon; the Holland public library, Mrs. C. F. Howlett, librarian, and Francis Wright, Oliver L. Howlett and Freeman B. Blodgett, trustees.

The town has but one public school, with an average yearly attendance of about 15 pupils. According to the latest published report, Holland has 88 children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, for whose instruction one teacher is employed eight months in the year. In the last year the amount raised by town tax for the support of the school was $225; expense of supervision was $25; expense for books and supplies, $32.22. The town's share of the school fund is about $455, and the local fund, the income from which can be used for school maintenance, is $222.22. The school committee for the present year comprises Arthur F. Blodgett (chm.), Charles A. Webber and Francis Wight.

In 1783 the town comprised four school districts and for many years thereafter four schools were maintained. In 1800 the districts were reduced to three, and were so continued until the decreasing population of the town generally necessitated a still further reduction in the districts. Under the present disposition of school interests, with a scattered population of less than 200 persons a transportation system is employed in conveying children to and from school. Holland is one of the towns in Hampden county which is not under the supervision of a school superintendent.

Long before Holland became a town and even while its territory formed a part of South Brimfield the inhabitants, ever mindful of their spiritual welfare, established a society for regilious worship and supported the same at the expense of the town. For several years services were held in the dwellings of devout members of the flock, and Rev. Mr. Conchelin acted as their spiritual guide. Then a meeting house was built, the first

in the region, and stood on the South Meadow road, not far from the foot of Rattlesnake mountain. This edifice served the needs of the worshipers for many years, and was followed by a second house of worship which stood near the center of the town and was a more pretentious structure than its predecessor. This building, however, was removed to Connecticut and was replaced with the meeting house which was burned in 1858. The present church edifice was erected in 1859.

The church itself was organized in 1765, with three constituent members, and in later years it grew in strength and influence until it became self-supporting and was regarded as one of the permanent institutions of the entire region. The first pastor was Rev. Ezra Reeves, whose ministry here continued from 1765 to 1818, when he died. He was followed by Rev. Enoch Burt and the latter, in turn, by Rev. James Sanford, who filled the pastorate from 1827 to 1843. In later years the pastorate frequently has been vacant and the pulpit has been supplied by various ministers of the church; but the society never has lost its identity, although the decrease in population in the town has made serious inroads on the membership. At the present time, and for the last five years, Rev. Josiah G. Willis has been pastor. The congregations generally are far greater than the number of communicants in the church. Among the earliest deacons there may be recalled the names of Moses Lyon, Humphrey Crowe, James Frizell, S. Ballard, David Wallis and Samuel Webber, nearly all of whom were chosen previous to 1800.

In the early years of the last century several Baptist families made homes in the town, and naturally soon sought to establish a church of their denomination. The society was formed June 6, 1817, and on the more formal church organization twenty persons became constituent members. Samuel Webber and Walter Lyon were the first deacons. The first pastor was Rev. Joseph Glazier, followed by Rev. Washington Munger. For a time the church was reasonably prosperous, but soon after 1840 it began to decline and before 1850 had passed out of existence. The meeting house was built in 1819-20, and was afterward transferred to the town.

In treating of the early history of Holland considerable attention has been given to recollections of the pioneers, with frequent allusion to their children and descendants who were figures in town life a century ago. But there have been other factors in local history who are deserving of at least a passing mention. We refer to men who were the real factors in Holland history during the last quarter of a century, many of whom served in official capacities, but all contributing factors in the most interesting history of the locality. In this connection we may recall the names of Elisha and Frank E. Kinney, hotel proprietors one after the other; Warren A. Wallis, Stephen Agard, William A. Webber, James A. Webber, Uriah P. Marcy, Orrin W. Brown, Edward Blodgett, Lewis C. Howlett, Henry Vinton, R. A. Blodgett and George L. Webber, all of whom were thrifty farmers, many of them descendants of pioneer stock, and all upright citizens whose example is worthy of emulation. In the same category we may also include T. D. Butterworth, the saw and grist miller, and Rev. John Carpenter, the former pastor of the church and the spiritual advisor of the town's people.

Among the present day factors in Holland history we may mention the names of Freeman B. Blodgett, Edward R. Morse, Henry E. Vinton, William L. Webber, H. H. Bradeau, Henry J. Switzer, Edwin P. Damon, B. C. Bennett and Richmond Young, all farmers and successful men; D. E. Webber, the painter; O. W. Williams, the mechanic; William Lilley, the mail carrier; Andrew J. Bagley, the carpenter; Oliver L. Howlett, the lumberman, and Rev. Josiah G. Willis, the clergyman and pastor of the Congregational church. These are a few of the more prominent men of Holland of to-day, they who are the real figures in its history.

CHAPTER XII

THE TOWN OF LONGMEADOW

The history of the town of Longmeadow must in most of its essential features include that which pertains to the present town of East Longmeadow, so recently set off from the parent municipality, no line of demarkation being practicable up to the time of the official separation of the two portions of the original town.

As originally incorporated the town of Longmeadow consisted of a strip of territory about seven miles in length from east to west and of about half that breadth, from north to south, set off from the town of Springfield. It was bounded north by Springfield, west by the Connecticut river separating it from the town of Agawam, south by the state line of Connecticut, and east by that portion of the town of Wilbraham which was in 1878 incorporated as the town of Hampden. The area of Longmeadow was originally a little less than twenty-five square miles, or 16,000 acres.

The name of the town was derived from the long, fertile plain bordering the east margin of the Connecticut river, which in the early days of the settlement was spoken of as "the long meadow." This plain or meadow is nearly a mile in width, practically level, very rich in soil, but so slightly raised above the river level as to be in danger of overflow in time of high water. To the eastward rises a plateau some sixty or eighty feet higher than the meadow, along which, from north to south, runs the principal street of the town. Still to the eastward comes a stretch of more broken land, of little agricultural value, which has been allowed to remain in forest or largely unimproved; while the eastern portion, now embraced in the town of East

Longmeadow, somewhat diversified and slightly hilly, presents a fair degree of fertility. Here, also, are located the extensive red sandstone quarries to which the eastern village has in large measure been indebted for its business interest and material prosperity. Within this limited area there is, therefore, a wide range of physical characteristics and qualities, from almost absolute sterility in the middle section to geological wealth and productive farming lands on the east, and to the extremely rich and fertile bottom lands on the west.

It was natural that "the long meadow," situated but a few miles below the settlement at Springfield, early attracted the attention of the pioneers. Its soil was rich, and easily cultivated; they had few utensils for working the land, and those few were crude and simple. The "teeming acres" invited, and the settlers responded. As early as 1644, within eight years after the first settlements at Springfield, three families—those of Benjamin Cooley, "Quartermaster" George Colton and John Keep—decided to locate on the long meadow. Others followed, and the little colony grew apace, although its interests and relations in matters of religion and civil government remained with the parent colony.

Thirty years had passed in this manner, when the outbreak of King Philip's war in 1675 rendered the position of these isolated settlers one of great peril. A large part of Springfield was burned, and all the region northward was filled with desolation and with mourning for those slain by the treacherous savages. All through the winter which followed the inhabitants of the meadow remained in their homes, knowing that bands of hostile Indians were lurking in the neighborhood. They dared not even make the journey necessary to attend church in Springfield—a deprivation so keenly felt that on the 26th of March, 1676, no hostilities having occurred for a considerable time, a party of eighteen men, women and children, accompanied by a small guard of armed men, set out to attend public worship. As they reached Pecowsic brook a band of hostile Indians burst upon them, killed John Keep, his wife and infant child, wounded some others, and took a few members of the party away captives.

Mr. Keep was one of the original settlers on the meadow, and was a leader in the community, being one of the selectmen of Springfield. Fortunately for the little settlement, it escaped further disaster of this nature, the war being carried on to the northward and in the eastern portions of the province.

With all of the advantages, it soon became apparent that the meadow was not adapted to permanent habitation, owing to the danger and annoyance accompanying the annual rise of the river. In seasons of high water the lands were frequently inundated, and in the year 1695 a flood of unusual height drove the families from their homes, most of them seeking shelter in Springfield proper. In 1703 they petitioned for permission to remove from the meadow to the higher ground lying to the east, and this petition was granted, the town voting to give for this purpose "the land from Pecowsic brook to Enfield bounds, and from the hill eastward of Long meadow half a mile further eastward into the woods." Upon the territory thus ceded the present main street of Longmeadow was laid out, land was assigned to the settlers, and preparations were made for the removal. This did not take place, however, until 1709, when all of the families moved to the new allotment, nearly at the same time.

Up to this time, and for a few years longer, the dwellers in Longmeadow had regarded themselves as merely an outpost of the town and parish of Springfield, and for another seventy years no movement looking toward an independent incorporation was attempted; but for the purposes of public worship, then esteemed so important a duty, the distance of the village from the parent settlement was regarded as too great, and in 1713 a petition was presented to the general court at Boston for incorporation as a parish or precinct. This action was approved, and Longmeadow became the Third parish of Springfield, the preamble to the act of incorporation reading thus: "Province of the Massachusetts Bay: At a session of the Great and General Court or Assembly, held at Boston, February 10, 1713, it being represented that the petitioners, inhabitants of that part of the town of Springfield commonly called Longmeadow (although not fully up to the number of forty families) is of

good and sufficient ability to maintain a minister, and sometimes cannot, with any convenience, attend the public worship at the meeting-house that now is in said town, by reason of the great distance from it: Ordered that the prayer of the petition be granted; with the provision, however, that in due season the petitioners should provide themselves with 'a learned and orthodox minister, and agree to raise and pay the sum of £50, at least, annually, for his support.''

The inhabitants of the new precinct were further required to ''pay to the maintenance of the ministry in the other part of the town as formerly until they are provided with a learned orthodox minister'', and the bounds of the Longmeadow parish were thus described: ''To be bounded northerly by a line to be drawn from the mouth of Pecowsic brook, so called, where it falls into Connecticut river, to the province's land, parallel to the line of the southern bounds of the said town of Springfield, westerly by Connecticut river, southerly by the town of Enfield, and easterly by the province's land.''

The erection of a suitable house of worship and the settlement of a minister became at once the important work of the new parish, and the existing records show that steps were taken to at once carry out the conditions of the incorporation. On the 26th of April, 1714, it was voted in a precinct meeting: ''To proceed in building of a meeting-house, and to accomplish it so far as to raise, shingle and clapboard the same by the first day of January next ensuing.'' It was also voted ''that the meeting-house should be built thirty-eight feet square if the timber that is already gotten will allow it; or, if this timber be too scant, to make it something less.'' The committee appointed to ''provide workmen and materials to carry on the work'' consisted of Nathaniel Burt, Jr., Samuel Keep, Thomas Hale, Thomas Colton, Jr., and Samuel Stebbins.

At a meeting held on the 11th of October of that year—''Honored Col. Pynchon being chosen moderator for said meeting, and for all such meetings when present among us''—it was voted that the committee ''should proceed to provide for and to lay the floor, and do some part of the walling and to set up

the doors and other necessaries of the meeting-house for our meeting in it." The building was not completed until near the close of the year 1716, though earlier used as a place of worship. About this time an agreement was made "with Margaret Cooley to sweep the meeting-house for one year from this date, and to give her seventeen shillings if there be no work done in the meeting-house; for eighteen shillings if there be any considerable." During 1744, after some sixteen years of discussion, a bell was procured for the church. For several years, earlier in the history of the precinct it appears that the worshipers had been summoned at the proper time by the beating of a drum.

The first pastorate of this church was in every way a notable one. The church interests were considered of the first importance in the community; it was for their furtherance that the precinct had been created, and the pastor called to minister to the inhabitants must of necessity become a central figure among them. It was voted at a meeting held September 30, 1714, to call a minister, and the committee entrusted with this delicate duty were cautioned "in the first place to take advice of the Elders in order to procure one suitable for us." The call was extended to Rev. Stephen Williams, a son of Rev. John Williams of Deerfield, by vote of the parish, March 7, 1715; but the fact that his ordination did not occur until October 17 of the following year shows that important measures were then carried through with care and deliberation. The ordination was not only an important event in the community, but it brought together a most notable assemblage of reverend gentlemen from the region comprising the line of settlements in the Connecticut river valley of Massachusetts. The ordaining council consisted of Rev. William Williams of Hatfield, who preached the ordaining sermon, Rev. John Williams, father of the minister ordained, Rev. Solomon Stoddard of Northampton, Rev. Edward Taylor of Westfield, and Rev. Daniel Brewer and Rev. John Woodbridge of Springfield—the latter being the first pastor of the parish on the west side of the river, in what is now West Springfield.

Rev. Mr. Williams preached his first sermon at Longmeadow as a candidate November 4, 1714, when but a few months over

twenty-one years of age, but he had already passed through varied and in some cases thrilling experiences. During "Queen Anne's war", early in 1704, when eleven years of age, he was captured, with his father's entire family, at the taking of Deerfield by the Indians, and was taken to Canada, where he was held a prisoner for more than two years. Graduating from Harvard college in 1713, he taught school in Hadley for a year before entering the ministry. His pastorate was probably the longest on record, continuing unbroken until his death, June 10, 1782, in the ninetieth year of his age, and the sixty-sixth year of his ministry. During this time he was thrice appointed a chaplain in the colonial armies, serving with the same fidelity which marked his position among the members of his beloved parish. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was bestowed upon him, most worthily, by Dartmouth college in 1773.

It is interesting to note, bearing in mind the limited membership of the parish, the liberal provision made for their pastor. It was voted to allow him £200 as a settlement fund, £50 a year to be paid for four years, with an annual salary of £55 for five years, to be after that increased at the rate of £5 a year "for ten years if his necessity calls for it, and then to pay him half his rate in grain at current money price." In many instances special sums were voted him on account of sickness in his family or other causes, such as the high price of provisions; while the pastor, on the other hand, appears to have given releases in cases where the parish found it difficult to meet the full measure of their obligations.

A touching experience in his life occurred in the early summer of 1761, when his sister Eunice, four years his junior, visited him. She had been taken captive at Deerfield with the rest of the family, but remained in Canada when the others returned to Massachusetts. All efforts for her redemption failed and she became in habit and disposition an Indian, forgetting her native language, and marrying an Indian chief who adopted the name of Williams. When on this visit the party, consisting of the sister, her husband, a daughter and others, reached Longmeadow, they encamped in Indian style in the orchard near the

parsonage, but were unable to carry on any conversation until an interpreter could be secured from Sunderland. Then for a few days the brother and sister communed; but nothing could induce the woman to forsake her adopted people, or renounce the Roman Catholic religion which she had embraced.

The pastorate of Mr. Williams covered nearly all of the revolutionary war period, and the stress to which the people were subjected by the depreciation of the continental currency is shown by the fact that for the year 1780 it was voted to make his salary £4,500. As a part of this amount was paid in grain, the prices at which this was reckoned will throw much light upon the situation. Indian corn was rated at $38 a bushel, wheat was $84, pease the same, and barley $50.

A movement for elevating the precinct to the dignity of an independent township was agitated as early as 1741, and a committee was appointed to consider and report on the desirability of the proposed change; but their report, adverse to the proposition, was accepted by the precinct, and the matter rested for thirty years. In 1772, however, the subject was again taken up, more earnestly, and petitions were presented to the town of Springfield and to the great and general court, looking to that end while the members of the parish several times expressed in their meetings the desire for a separate incorporation. On the 17th of January, 1774, Springfield voted its consent to the proposed separation, under certain conditions, the precinct accepted the conditions, and a committee was appointed to present the request of the parish to the legislature; but the long and terrible war for independence of the colonies was at hand, and during its stress all thought of a separate town government for Longmeadow seems to have been held in abeyance. On the 23d of August, 1781, another vote was taken to determine whether the parish still desired a separation, and was "passed in the affirmative." A little more than two years later, on the 13th of October, 1783, the great and general court passed the act of incorporation, Longmeadow being thus the first town in the state, and perhaps in the country, incorporated after the formal acknowledgment of the independence of the colonies. The bounds of

the town were identical with those of the parish, except that on the east the town of Wilbraham had been incorporated, and formed the boundary in that direction. The name of "Longmeadow," which had been adopted for the settlement and for the precinct, was continued for the town, and has remained unchanged to the present time, although the subject of a different name has occasionally been agitated, and a change of name has twice been voted in town meeting. In 1812 the name of "Lisbon" was thus adopted, but the movement in its favor came to naught through another town in the state already bearing that name; in 1825 "South Springfield" received the popular vote, but the action was reconsidered two weeks later.

The first town meeting was held November 13, 1783, under a warrant issued by John Bliss of Wilbraham, justice of the peace. The moderator was Col. Gideon Burt, and the following principal officers were chosen: Town clerk, Jonathan Hale, Jr.,; treasurer, Nathaniel Ely; selectmen, David Burt, Moses Field and Jonathan Burt; assessors, Gideon Burt, Moses Field and Jonathan Burt, 2d. The principal officers of precinct and town, from 1714 to the present year, and representatives to the great and general court down to 1812, are as follows:

Committee of the Precinct.—1714, Col. John Pynchon, Capt. Thomas Colton, Joseph Cooley, Nathaniel Burt, George Colton; 1715, Col. John Pynchon, Capt. Thomas Colton, Nathaniel Burt, Jr., Samuel Keep, George Colton; 1716, Col. John Pynchon, Sergt. Joseph Cooley, Corp. Nathaniel Burt, Samuel Keep, Thomas Bliss, 2d; 1717, Col. John Pynchon, Thomas Colton, Nathaniel Bliss, Ephraim Colton, Jos. Cooley; 1718-19, Ephraim Colton, Joseph Cooley, Thomas Bliss, 2d; 1720, Joseph Cooley, Samuel Keep, Samuel Stebbins; 1721, Ephraim Colton, Thomas Hale, Samuel Stebbins; 1722, Ephraim Colton, Ensign Keep, Samuel Stebbins; 1723, Thomas Bliss, 2d, Samuel Stebbins, Samuel Cooley; 1724, Samuel Keep, Samuel Stebbins, Thomas Bliss, 3d; 1725, Nathaniel Bliss, Jr., Eliakim Cooley, Jonathan Ely; 1726, Eliakim Ely, Nathaniel Bliss, Jr., Thomas Hale; 1727-8, Eliakim Cooley, Jonathan Nash, George Colton; 1729, Thomas Colton, Eliakim Cooley, Jonathan Ely; 1730, Nathaniel Bliss,

Jr., William Stebbins, Samuel Cooley; 1731, Thomas Bliss, 2d, Thomas Bliss, 3d, Ebenezer Colton; 1732, Samuel Cooley, Thomas Bliss, 3d, Timothy Nash; 1733, Thomas Bliss, 2d, Nathaniel Bliss, Jr., Thomas Colton; 1734, Samuel Colton, Samuel Cooley, Timothy Nash; 1735, Ebenezer Bliss, 1st, John Colton, John Cooley; 1736, Ephraim Colton, Thomas Colton, Ensign Stebbins; 1737, Timothy Nash, Samuel Cooley, John Burt, 2d; 1738, Thomas Field, Thomas Colton, Simon Colton; 1739, John Cooley, Thomas Bliss, David Burt, 2d; 1740, Jonathan Stebbins, Ephraim Colton, John Colton; 1741, Isaac Colton, Nathaniel Bliss, John Cooley; 1742, Henry Walcott, Nathan Burt, Jr., John Colton; 1743, Samuel Cooley, Joshua Field, Isaac Colton; 1744, William Stebbins, Ephraim Colton, Jr., Samuel Keep, Jr.; 1745, Ephraim Colton, John Colton, Jonathan Stebbins; 1746, Nathaniel Burt, Jr., Simon Colton, David Burt, 2d; 1747-9, Simon Colton, David Burt, 2d, Nathaniel Burt, Jr.; 1750, Simon Colton, David Burt, 2d, Nathaniel Ely; 1751, Nathaniel Burt, Simon Colton, Nathaniel Ely; 1752-3, Nathaniel Ely, 2d, Josiah Cooley, David Burt, 2d; 1754, Josiah Cooley, Nathaniel Ely, 2d, Aaron Colton; 1755, Moses Field, Nathaniel Ely, Aaron Colton; 1756, George Colton, Simon Colton, David Burt; 1757, Josiah Cooley, Jonathan Hale, David Burt; 1758, Moses Field, Matthew Keep, Josiah Cooley; 1759, Richard Woolworth, Eleazer Smith, Nathaniel Ely; 1760, Josiah Cooley, Jonathan Hale, Eleazer Smith; 1761, Nehemiah Stebbins, David Burt, Noah Hale; 1762, Ebenezer Bliss, 3d, Josiah Cooley, Abner Bliss; 1763, Aaron Colton, Jonathan Hale, Moses Field; 1764, Nehemiah Stebbins, Simon Colton, Eleazer Smith; 1765, Moses Field, Ebenezer Bliss, 2d, David Burt, 3d; 1766, Samuel Williams, Eleazer Smith, Nehemiah Stebbins; 1767, Simeon Colton, Nathaniel Ely, Moses Field; 1768, Nehemiah Stebbins, Aaron Colton, David Burt, 3d; 1769, Ebenezer Bliss, 3d, David Burt, 3d, Nehemiah Stebbins; 1770-71, Samuel Williams, Ebenezer Bliss, 3d, Jonathan Hale, Jr.; 1172, Samuel Williams, Aaron Colton, Nathaniel Burt; 1773, Jonathan Hale, Jr., Samuel Williams, David Burt, 3d; 1774, Richard Woolworth, Samuel Colton, Aaron Colton; 1775, Jonathan Hale, Jr., Ebenezer Bliss, 3d, Aaron Bliss; 1776, Nathaniel Burt, Caleb Cooley,

Elijah Burt, Silas Hale, Stephen Keep; 1777, Samuel Colton, Nathaniel Burt, Richard Woolworth, Ephraim Brown, Jonathan Burt, 2d; 1778, Nathaniel Burt, David Burt, Elijah Burt; 1779, Samuel Williams, Henry Colton, Silas Hale, Nathaniel Ely, Ebenezer Colton; 1780, Samuel Keep, Nathaniel Burt, Nathaniel Ely, Jr., Jonathan Burt, 2d, Josiah Cooley; 1781, Nathaniel Burt, Elijah Burt, Israel Colton, Josiah Colton, Jonathan Hale, Jr.; 1782, Jonathan Hale, Jr., Josiah Cooley, Silas Hale, Azariah Woolworth, Abner Colton; 1783, Festus Colton, Josiah Cooley, Samuel Keep, Elijah Burt, Abner Hale.

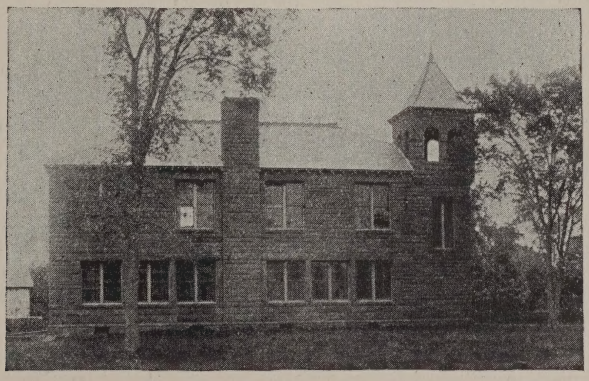
Selectmen.—1783-4, David Burt, Moses Field, Jonathan Burt; 1785-6, Moses Field, Jonathan Burt, Samuel Keep; 1787-8, Moses Field, William Stebbins, Jonathan Hale, Jr.; 1789, Jonathan Burt, Jabez Colton, Jonathan Hale, Jr.; 1790, Jabez Colton, Jonathan Burt, Nathaniel Ely, Jr.; 1791-3, Hezekiah Hale, Jonathan Burt, Nathaniel Ely, 2d; 1794-6, Jonathan Burt, 2d, Hezekiah Hale, Gideon Burt, vice Jonathan Burt, deceased; 1797-9, Hezekiah Hale, Elijah Burt, Nathaniel Ely, Jr.; 1800-01, Hezekiah Hale, Joseph W. Cooley, Gideon Burt; 1802-3, Hezekiah Hale, Joseph W. Cooley, Nathaniel Ely; 1804-6, Joseph W. Cooley, Calvin Burt, Ethan Ely; 1807-12, Alexander Field, Ethan Ely, Joseph W. Cooley; 1813-14, Alexander Field, Ethan Ely, Stephen Taylor; 1815, Ethan Ely, Alexander Field, Joseph W. Cooley; 1816, Ethan Ely, Alexander Field, Seth Taylor; 1817, Ethan Ely, Alexander Field, Joseph W. Cooley; 1818, Joseph W. Cooley, Ethan Ely, David Booth; 1819, Joseph W. Cooley, Oliver Dwight, Ethan Ely; 1820, Ethan Ely, Oliver Dwight, Elijah Colton; 1821, Oliver Dwight, Oliver Bliss, Elijah Colton; 1822-3, Oliver Dwight, Oliver Bliss, Alexander Field; 1824, Seth Taylor, Elijah Colton, Joseph W. Cooley; 1825, Seth Taylor, Elijah Colton, William White; 1826-9, Herman Newell, Burgess Salsbury, Joseph Ashley; 1830, Elijah Colton, Ethan Taylor, Stephen Ashley; 1831, Stephen Ashley, Burgess Salsbury, Elijah Colton; 1832, Elijah Colton, Burgess Salsbury, William White; 1833-4, Burgess Salsbury, Gad O. Bliss, Oliver Dwight; 1835-6, Burgess Salsbury, Gad O. Bliss, Lorin Burt; 1837, Burgess Salsbury, Gad O. Bliss, Elijah Colton; 1838, Gad

O. Bliss, Elijah Colton, Ethan Taylor; 1839, Oliver Dwight, Gad O. Bliss, Willis Phelps; 1840, Gad O. Bliss, Simeon Newell, Stephen Ashley; 1841, Gad O. Bliss, Simeon Newell, Willis Phelps; 1842, Simeon Newell, Willis Phelps, Joseph McGregory; 1843, Lorin Burt, Dimond Colton, Joseph McGregory; 1844, Lorin Burt, Joseph McGregory, Simeon Newell; 1845-6, Simeon Newell, Lorin Burt, Daniel Burbank; 1847-8, Alford Cooley, Warren Billings, Simeon Newell; 1849-50, Alford Cooley, Warren Billings, Oliver Dwight; 1851, Alford Cooley, Elias Coomes, Randolph Stebbins; 1852-3, Alford Cooley, Stephen T. Colton, Randolph Stebbins; 1854, Randolph Stebbins, Stephen T. Colton, William Higley; 1855, Stephen T. Colton, Alfred Taylor, Sumner W. Gates; 1856-7, Stephen T. Colton, Alfred Taylor, Lucius C. Burt; 1858-9, Stephen T. Colton, William Burt, Lucius C. Burt; 1860-62, Stephen T. Colton, David Lathrop, Abel H. Calkins; 1863-5, Stephen T. Colton, David Lathrop, Horace Hills; 1866, Stephen T. Colton, Charles S. Newell, Geo. W. Gould; 1867, Stephen T. Colton, Charles S. Newell, Randolph Stebbins; 1868, George W. Gould, Charles S. Newell, Abel H. Calkins; 1869-70, Charles S. Newell, George W. Gould, Ralph P. Markham; 1871-3, Charles S. Newell, John C. Porter, Edwin Endicott; 1874, Charles S. Newell, Edwin Endicott, Abel H. Calkins; 1875, Chas. S. Newell, Edward P. Tabor, Abel H. Calkins; 1876, Charles S. Newell, Edward P. Tabor, Edwin Endicott; 1877, Charles S. Newell, Edward P. Tabor, Abel H. Calkins; 1878-79, Charles S. Newell, Edward P. Tabor, David Lathrop; 1880-82, Charles S. Newell, Edward P. Tabor, Abel H. Calkins; 1883, John C. Porter, John A. McKinstry, Henry Hall; 1884-9, John A. McKinstry, Henry Hall, John C. Porter; 1890-91, Henry Hall, John C. Porter, Frank B. Allen; 1892, Henry Hall, John C. Porter, Edward P. Tabor; 1893, Frank B. Allen, John C. Porter, George B. Robinson; 1894, Frank B. Allen, William C. Pease, Charles S. Newell; 1895, Frank B. Allen, Charles S. Newell, John A. McKinstry; 1896, Charles S. Newell, John A. McKinstry, Charles S. Gates; 1897-8, Charles S. Gates, Frank B. Allen, Thomas D. Watters; 1899-1900, Charles S. Newell, Charles A. Birnie, Walter Bliss; 1901, Edward S. Brewer, Thomas D. Watters, Harry G. Webster.

Precinct Clerks.—1716, Jonathan Ely; 1717, Samuel Stebbins; 1718-51, Jonathan Ely; 1751-75, Jonathan Stebbins; 1775-83, Jonathan Hale, Jr.

Town Clerks.—1783-91, Jonathan Hale, Jr.; 1791-3, Daniel Stebbins; 1793-1813, Jabez Colton; 1813-20, Chester Woolworth; 1820-51, William White; 1851-3, David Booth; 1853, Dimond Chandler; 1854-6, Henry J. Crooks; 1856, James L. Pratt; 1857-89, Oliver Wolcott; 1889-94, Fred W. Lathrop; 1894, William B. Medlicott; 1895-1901, William F. Emerson.

Representatives.—1784, Nathaniel Ely; 1785-6, Gideon Burt; 1787, Elihu Colton; 1788-9, William Stebbins; 1791-2, Jabez Colton; 1794-5, Gideon Burt; 1800, Hezekiah Hale; 1801,



Longmeadow Town Hall

Gideon Burt; 1802-3, Nathaniel Ely; 1804, Hezekiah Hale; 1805-12, Ethan Ely.

State Senators.—1856, Gad O. Bliss; 1863, Thomas L. Chapman.

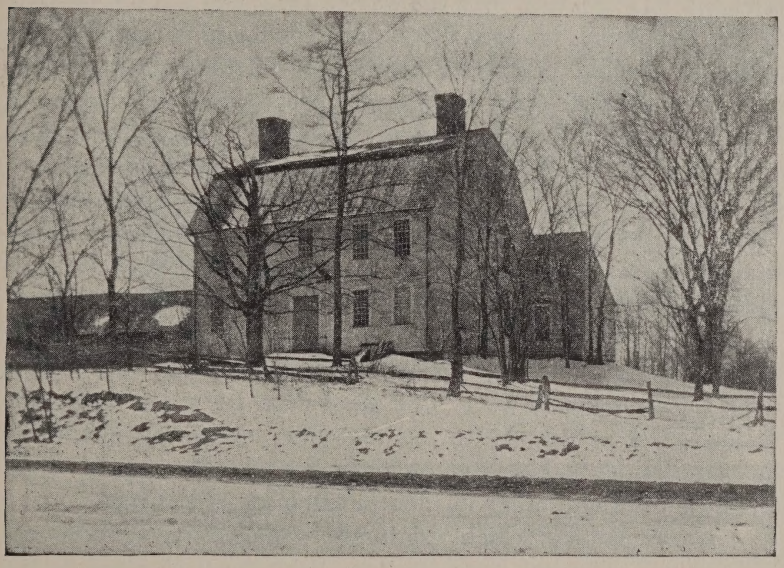
Members of State Constitutional Convention.—1820, Calvin Burt; 1853, Gad O. Bliss.

The full list of town officers for the year 1901 is as follows: Town clerk, treasurer and agent of board of health, William F. Emerson; selectmen, assessors, overseers of poor and board of health, Edward S. Brewer, Thomas D. Watters, Harry G. Webster; auditor, William M. Willard; collector, Charles S. Allen;

constables, William F. Sullivan, James Ward; highway surveyor, Charles P. Ward; water commissioners, Charles A. Birnie, Thomas D. Watters, Walter Bliss, William F. Emerson, clerk; cemetery commissioners, William F. Emerson, Charles S. Allen, Edward P. Tabor; park commissioners, William C. Pease, William S. Bacon, Gottlieb A. Baer; sinking fund commissioners, William C. Pease, Charles S. Allen, Thomas F. Cordis; chief of fire department, Thomas D. Watters; school committee, Levere C. Fay, Mrs. Lucy J. Smith, William B. Medlicott; superintendent of schools, Mary L. Poland of Springfield; principal of grammar school, Lucia B. Carver; trustees of public library, Edward F. Hayes, Mrs. Charles S. Gates (librarian), Mrs. Lucy J. Smith.

There is abundant evidence that in the days of warfare and peril which tried the American colonies so severely, during much of the first part of the eighteenth century, the inhabitants of Longmeadow bore their part in a brave and creditable manner. Unfortunately no separate records were kept for the parish, and the men from the southern precinct merely stood to the credit of Springfield. It is possible, however, to name a trio of officers who served with distinction. Rev. Stephen Williams, the first pastor of the church, was three times commissioned as chaplain in the colonial armies, and there can be no doubt of the quality of the service which he rendered. The tombstone of Capt. Isaac Colton, who died in 1757, in his fifty-seventh year, bears record that he "had a military genius, commanded a company at Louisburg in 1742; was respected and useful at home; was a man of prayer." Similar testimony is borne by the stone which marks the grave of Lieut. Nathaniel Burt, "who was slain at the memorable battle near Lake George, September 8, 1755, when his colonel and other brave officers fell, yet a signal victory was obtained over the enemy." The record adds that he was "a deacon of this church, an exemplary christian, a man of public spirit, and a good soldier, well beloved at home and in the army. A concern for pure religion caused his going into the military service. He died in his forty-fifth year." Other military titles borne by Longmeadow men during this period were doubtless won by faithful service in the field.

The precinct still remained a portion of Springfield during the revolution, although aspiring to become a town, so that its military history is in general inseparable from that of the parent municipality. There is preserved, however, the muster roll of the "Longmeadow minute men" who marched away for service April 21, 1775, on receiving report of the battle of Lexington two days before. This promptness of action well illustrates the spirit of the times and of the community, though the company was but small, comprising only twenty-three officers and enlisted men, as follows:



The Old Colton Place

First Lieutenant (acting Captain) David Burt; Second Lieutenant Jonathan Hale; Sergeants Ebenezer Colton and Samuel Keep; Corporals Nathaniel Ely and Josiah Cooley; Abner Colton, Oliver King, John Colton, Nehemiah Rumrill, Ebenezer Bliss, 2d, Thomas Stebbins, Aaron Bliss, Samuel Morgan, Samuel Smith, James Parker, David White, Gad Lamb, John Ackley, Ebenezer Stebbins, Elijah Burt, Samuel Burt, Richard Woolworth.

Before the close of the long struggle most of the able-bodied men of the parish had drawn sword or shouldered musket in the cause of liberty, and the people had borne their share of the burdens incident to the strife. Their joy at the final outcome was proportioned to the stress which they had borne during the years of trial.

There was a sharp division of sentiment in the town regarding the Shays rebellion, and the leader of that movement had a considerable following, although it is probable that a majority were in favor of the government. Like most New Englanders, they had no sympathy with the war of 1812, and did not hesitate to put themselves on record by votes condemning many of the measures thought necessary by the federal government. Some men were drafted from the town, however, and the names of Levi E. Taylor and Sabin Burt are recorded as having been thus distinguished. When the war closed and peace had been declared, the inhabitants gave free expression to their joy, ringing the church bell with such vigor that it was cracked and ruined, necessitating the appropriation of a considerable sum for the purchase of a new bell.

In the war of the rebellion, 1861-5, however, the sentiment of the town was strongly loyal. Like every other town in the county, Longmeadow furnished more than its quota under the various calls for troops during the four years' continuance of the war, besides making generous provision for the care of volunteers' families and other incidental expenses of the war.

As the motive which originally impelled its settlers was agricultural, pastoral pursuits have held the first place in the activities of the residents of the town, especially in that section now known as Longmeadow. In fact, the plan of the settlement was such as to preclude any other idea than that of an agricultural community, with such simple allied industries as were necessary for the comfort and convenience of the people. The broad village street, twenty rods in width, converted from a sandy waste into a vista of greenness and beauty, the generous allotment of the central lands, running far back from the street, the air of repose and quiet which has survived with so little im-

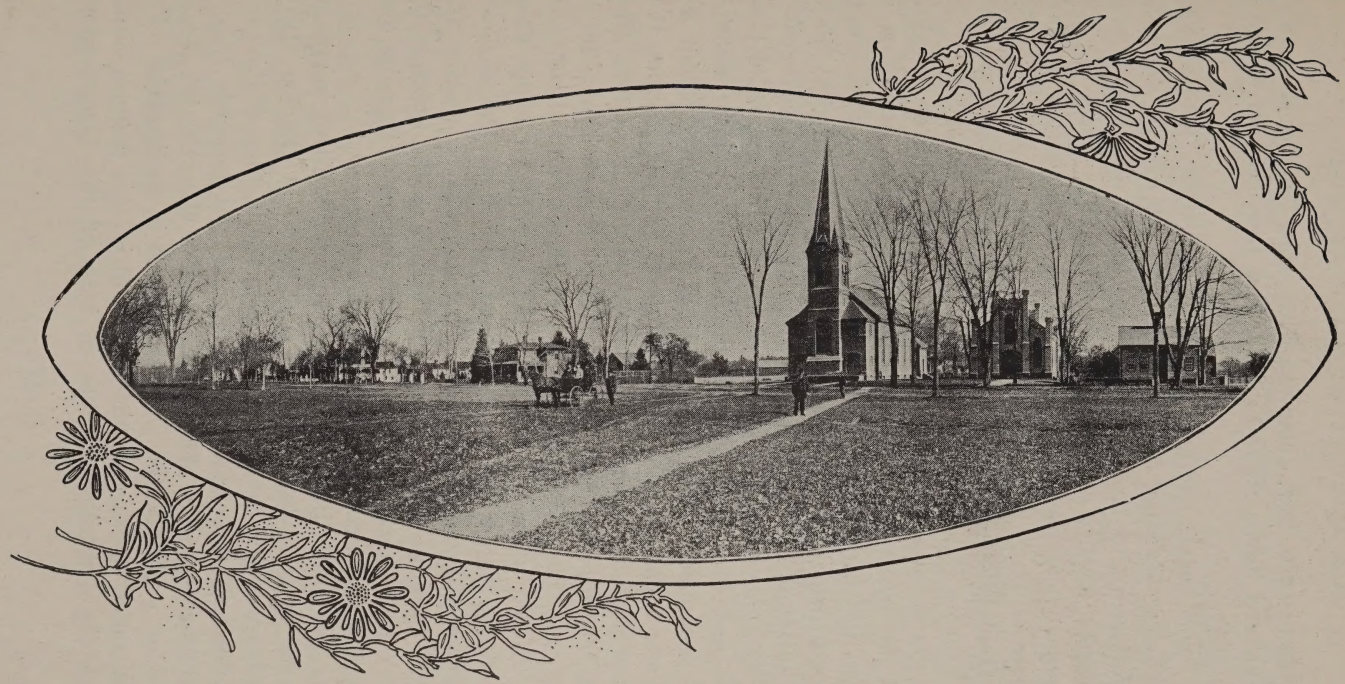
pairment through nearly two centuries of development, with the wide meadows extending to the river on one side and to the forest on the other, combine to form an embodiment of well-preserved pioneer wisdom, embodied in a permanent community in a measure seldom met, even in the earlier New England settlements.

With the exception of the saw mills, grist mills and blacksmith shops naturally pertaining to the early settlements, the manufacturing interests of Longmeadow have never been extensive, or very important. The first of any consequence appears to have been the manufacture of gold spectacles and gold and silver thimbles, which was begun by Dimond Chandler about 1838, and carried on for some ten years, when he sold out to Colton & Hollister. Various other parties have since carried on the business in a moderate way, but it is now extinct. After disposing of this industry Mr. Chandler started in 1848 the manufacture of buttons, presently taking in as partners Nelson C. Newell and his brother, Samuel R. Newell. Within eight or ten years the industry had grown so that employment was given to some forty or fifty hands, when it was removed to Springfield, where it is still carried on. At the mouth of Pecowsic brook some manufacturing has been done, a small pistol factory being at one time operated there. Later a papier-maché plant turned out pails, basins, globes and various other articles, but the business did not long continue.

While the central thought in the incorporation of Longmeadow parish was that of religious worship accessible to the dwellers in the settlement, the important matter of education was not overlooked or neglected. No sooner had a church been provided than the matter of a school house was taken up, and a structure for that purpose was soon erected on the village green to the north of the church. This served the needs of the community until 1791, when a brick building of peculiar design was erected somewhat further south on the green, where it remained until destroyed by fire in 1851. The appropriations for school purposes during the precinct period were made by the town of Springfield in common with those for the other schools

in the town limits; but there is no doubt that the children of Longmeadow received their share of the appropriations in the provisions made for that part of the town. In 1784, the year following the incorporation of Longmeadow as a separate municipality, the school appropriation was £40, and the amount increased yearly with the growth and development of the town. New districts were created and provided with school houses, as the need became apparent. From the early town records it appears that in several cases the buildings were constructed by the inhabitants of the district, at their own expense, the cost being afterward reimbursed by the town. From that time to the present, the needs of the town schools have been generously met; and though no educational institutions of wide scope have been founded within the town limits, that the needs of the town children have been well considered is amply attested by the quality of citizenship produced.

The early history of the First Congregational church has already been told in the story of the precinct period, neither of which can be dissociated from the other during the long period covered by the ministry of Rev. Dr. Williams. His death occurred June 10, 1782, and before the settlement of his successor important events occurred in the history of the community and of the nation. The war of the revolution ended in 1783 by recognition of the independence of the colonies, and in the autumn of that year the precinct became a town. For more than three years the church was without a settled pastor, though its pulpit was doubtless supplied during this interval. But on the 17th of December, 1785, Rev. Richard Salter Storrs, who had graduated from Yale college in 1783, was ordained as the successor of Rev. Dr. Williams. His was an able and successful pastorate, and continued until terminated by his sudden death, October 3, 1819. It will be observed that the two pastorates of these ministers extended over one hundred and three years in the history of the parish and town, and represented more than a hundred years of actual service. Probably this is a record unequaled in the history of the country for two successive pastorates. The succeeding pastors were Rev. Baxter Dickinson,



The First Congregational Church at Longmeadow, of which Rev. John Harding was pastor forty-two years. The chapel is seen on the right and the parsonage on the left of the church edifice

from 1823 to 1829, Rev. Jonathan B. Condit, from 1831 to 1835, Rev. Hubbard Beebe, 1837 to 1843, and Rev. Samuel Wolcott, 1843 to 1847.

In 1850 began another pastorate of notable length, Rev. John Wheeler Harding being installed on the first of January, and ministering to the people of his church and parish with great ability, fidelity and acceptance until 1891. With the possible exception of Rev. Mr. Beebe, all of these pastors received the degree of D. D. Rev. Stephen G. Barnes, Lit. D., was the pastor from 1892 until 1901, and the present incumbent, Rev. Henry Lincoln Bailey, began his pastorate October 1, 1901.

In the original plan of the settlement the church building formed the center of the village of Longmeadow, standing on the green which occupied the central portion of the wide street, an honor in which only the school house was permitted to share. A new building, just north of the original structure, was erected in 1767-8, and was used until 1828, when it was extensively remodeled and improved. Nearly a half-century later another change was made when the building was removed from the central site which it had occupied thus far and placed upon that portioa of the burial ground grant abutting upon the street. This location was directly east of the original church site, a lot in the center of the village having been assigned for burial purposes. Placed upon the new site, the church was again thoroughly remodeled, within and without, and thus, new in detail but bearing still the sacred associations of nearly a century and a half of worship, "the old church" stands in the heart of the village, "the westering sun" casting the shadow of its spire over the accumulated graves of nearly two centuries.

St. Mary's Catholic church is the outgrowth of a mission which may be said to have been established in October, 1870, when mass was said for the first time in the history of the town in what is still the church building, and had formerly been a spectacle factory. The officiating priest was Rev. Patrick Healy, then acting pastor of the Catholic church in Springfield. For thirteen years monthly service was held in this manner, until, in 1883, the Catholic churches in both of the Longmeadows

were made missions of St. William's church in Mittineague. In 1894 they were created a parish. Both have been continuously under the care of the same pastor, the list of incumbents being given under the heading of East Longmeadow.

A moderate-sized public library of 2,250 well-selected books was established in 1895, and is under the charge of a board of trustees chosen by the town.

The population of the town as reported by the national census of 1850 was 1,252; in 1860 it had increased to 1,376; but in 1870 showed a slight falling off, to 1,342. The figures for 1880 were 1,401, and the next decade witnessed a remarkable growth, bringing the total up to 2,183 for 1890. The setting off of East Longmeadow in 1894 brought the population of the old town down to 620, as shown by the state census of 1895; but the national census of 1900 showed an increase to 811. The present area of the town is 11.2 square miles, a little more than one-half of the original territory having been set off as East Longmeadow.

CHAPTER XIII

THE TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

The territory comprised within the limits of the present town of East Longmeadow is more diversified than that of the mother town, from which the separation has so lately taken place. In the eastern portion hills of moderate elevation are frequent, several of these containing valuable quarries of red sandstone, of great extent. In most other portions the soil is fairly fertile, and compensates well the intelligent labors of the husbandman. The meadows and orchards are attractive, and the grazing lands are desirable, the whole region being especially adapted to dairying purposes, which have always held prominent place in the town's economy.

After the early settlements began to take form, this region was known as "Inward Commons," it being a portion of the

large territory included in the Springfield grant, and was used in common, if it can be said to have been used at all. In fact, in the early days it was emphatically "a land unknown," being heavily covered by forest and abounding in game, deer, bears and wildcats. Feathered game, including wild turkeys, was also abundant. Gradually, now and then a daring pioneer penetrated the wilderness, secured a grant of land, and cleared a home site. The records of such settlements are extremely meagre. The first settlers from Longmeadow Street appear to have been

An East Longmeadow Quarry

Jonathan Burt and his brother Elijah, with Silas Hale; but they do not appear to have located on "the Commons" until about 1740. The distribution of these lands among the people of Springfield, some time previous, made easy the development of this portion of the Longmeadow parish. This distribution was brought about by the acts of Edmund Andros, who in 1686 had been appointed by the crown as "Governor of New England," in sequestering undivided land or "Commons" con-

nected with some of the settlements. Through fear that this course might be pursued in the case of Springfield, and that through the revocation of the colony's charter, then threatened, the lands might revert to the crown, the commons were laid out in sections and were equitably allotted in regular form to the several families then resident in the township. These remote holdings, however, were generally held of little value, and the enterprising young man who desired to "lay out a farm" could easily do so through the purchase of a few adjoining sections, or by exchange with other proprietors.

It was in this way that the settlement of this portion of Longmeadow was principally developed, and the connection between the two sections of the parish and town long remained close and friendly. Intermarriages were common, and the old church on the village green remained for many years the Mecca to which the residents of the eastern portion turned their steps on the Sabbath, traversing, on foot and by all the means of conveyance then known to their civilization, the miles of forest which separated, and in a measure still separates, the two communities.

Until about 1820 the town meetings were held at West Longmeadow, as the original village came to be familiarly called; but at that time the growing population and important interests of the East village led to an arrangement by which the annual meetings were held alternately in the two sections. In 1882 a commodious town hall was provided for the use of the East Longmeadow meetings, occupying the upper story of a new school building, very properly constructed of stone from the village quarries.

Meantime, with the lapse of years there had developed the want of harmony inevitable from the diversity of interests and the geographical separation of the two villages. The commercial relations of each section were with the city of Springfield, with which each had independent connection by railroad and other lines of travel, while the two portions of the town remained almost as effectually divided as they had been from the days of original settlement. Under these conditions separate town gov-

ernments were the logical outcome, and after years of discussion and preliminary work the separation was made by the state legislature of 1894, the act to take effect on July 1 of that year. The act, which was approved May 19, 1894, thus describes the boundary line between the two towns: "Beginning at a stone monument on the boundary line between the town of Longmeadow and the city of Springfield, at a point where said boundary line intersects the westerly line of White street, and running thence south five degrees east to a stone monument on the Connecticut state line, and at an angle in said state line, which monument is located about seventy-five rods west of the point where the west branch of Freshwater brook crosses said Connecticut state line."

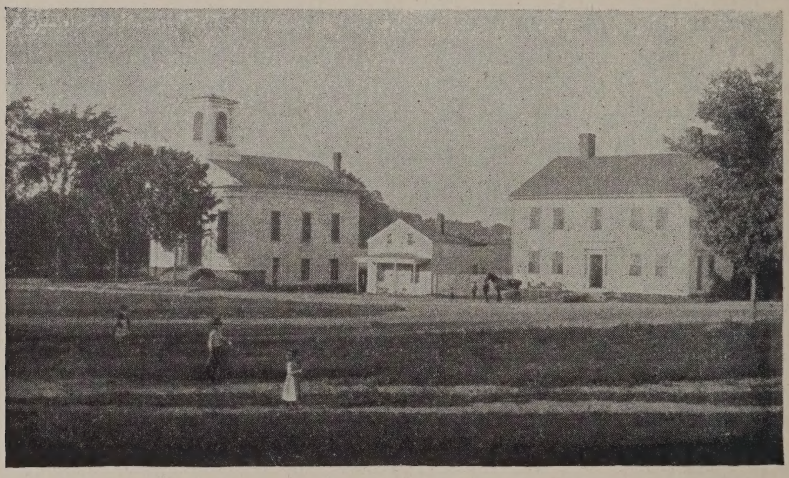
At the election of officers which followed, these were chosen for the remainder of the then current year: Clerk and treasurer, O. Louis Wolcott; selectmen, George B. Robinson, John F. Whitaker, Edward S. Ellis. At the election of 1895 Mr. Wolcott was again chosen town clerk, while William H. Hall, John L. Davis and Ethan Hancock were made selectmen, and at each succeeding election up to the present year (1901) they have been re-elected. In 1901 Arthur G. Crane was elected town clerk, succeeding Mr. Wolcott. The full board of town officers for that year follows: Town clerk and treasurer, Arthur G. Chase; selectmen, assessors, overseers of the poor, board of health and fence viewers, William H. Hall, John L. Davis, Ethan Hitchcock; auditors, Frank H. Whitaker, Frank A. Crane; collector, Arthur Geldard; constables, Henry Hellin, Billings Cooley; special police, Frank A. Champlin, Herman Tower; cattle inspector, John L. Davis; highway surveyor, Asher Markham; school committee, Charles H. Bugbee, O. Louis Wolcott, Ethan Hancock; superintendent of schools, Mary L. Poland of Springfield; trustees of public library, O. Louis Wolcott, David D. Durantaye, Mrs. O. C. Hunn; librarian, Mrs. Lucy Coomes.

While the old church on Longmeadow Street remained for sixty years the place of worship of all the people of the town, a diversity of religious belief began to manifest itself in East Longmeadow about the first of the nineteenth century. In the

southeastern corner of the town there resided at the time mentioned several families with Baptist views, and that portion of the town was familiarly referred to as "Baptist Settlement." These people for a long time worshiped with their Connecticut neighbors in Enfield, but in 1807 they petitioned the Baptist church of that place and the Congregational church of Longmeadow for permission that "Elder George Atwell officiate with them as a preacher of divinity one-half of the time." This petition was granted, and religious services were held there until 1818, as a branch of the Enfield church, when on the 23d of June the First Baptist church of East Longmeadow was established with appropriate exercises. The First Baptist society had been organized January 13, 1816, and was incorporated February 8, 1819. It was discontinued as an incorporated body March 31, 1873. The several pastors of the church, with the year of settlement or ordination, have been as follows: Rev. George B. Atwell, 1821-5; Rev. John M. Hunt, 1835-40; Rev. Moses J. Kelly, 1842; Rev. F. L. Bachelor, 1843; Rev. Mr. Farrar, 1846; Rev. N. W. Minor, 1848; Rev. Nicholas Branch, 1853; Rev. A. S. Lovell, 1858; Rev. Levi H. Wakeman, 1862; Rev. T. O. Judd, 1867; Rev. H. G. Gage, 1873; Rev. William S. Phillips, 1875; Rev. O. R. Hunt, 1877; Rev. L. H. Copeland, 1882; Rev. F. B. Joy, 1887; Rev. N. D. Parsons, 1888; Rev. R. S. Mitchell, 1891; Rev. Ward Fisher, 1897; Rev. W. L. Giles, 1897; Rev. Robert H. Carey, 1899, the present pastor. The house of worship occupied by this church is located near the southeastern corner of the town, in what has long been familiarly known as "Baptist District." It was built about 1830, but has since been remodeled, and under the efforts of the present pastor has been again thoroughly renovated. The church is now in a prosperous condition.

After worshipping with the parent church at Longmeadow village for almost ninety years, the Congregationalists of East Longmeadow began about 1825 to consider the matter of a church in their own village, and on the 16th of June, 1827, the society was incorporated under the name of "Proprietors of the Meeting House of the Third Religious Society in Longmeadow." The

title was changed to "Third Religious Society in Longmeadow," in 1830, and in 1895 to "First Congregational Society of East Longmeadow." The church was organized on the 22d of April, 1829, as the Second Congregational church in Longmeadow, the name being changed in 1895 to "First Congregational Church of East Longmeadow." A house of worship was erected on the hill overlooking the village, at a cost of $3,500, in 1828, and was dedicated in November of that year. In 1859 the structure was moved down the hill into the village and extensively remodeled, forming the present church building. The former site was



"The Center"—East Longmeadow

adopted for a parsonage. The first pastor installed was Rev. Calvin Foot, who was installed April 15, 1831, and dismissed July 8, 1835. His successors have been: Rev. Martyn Tupper, 1835-49; Rev. William E. Dixon, 1852-4; Rev. Joshua R. Brown, installed December 13, 1854, died September 7, 1858; Rev. Alfred B. Peabody, 1860-67; Rev. Alfred I. Dutton, 1869-85; Rev. Robert C. Bell, 1885-92; Rev. Albert D. Smith, 1892-6; Rev. John A. Hughes, 1896-7; Rev. Harry C. McKnight, 1898-1901.

A Methodist Episcopal church was organized in June, 1853, Rev. David K. Merrill being the preacher in charge. In the same

year a church building was erected and dedicated, and is still in use, having been thoroughly renovated in 1880. A parsonage was erected in 1860, and it is worthy of mention that all the church property is free from debt. Apart from supplies by notable clergymen from Wesleyan academy at Wilbraham and residents of Springfield, the pastors have been as follows: Rev. David K. Merrill, 1853-4; Rev. Rodney Gage, 1855-6; Rev. Jonas M. Clark, 1856-7; Rev. Randall Mitchell, 1860-2; Rev. Thomas C. Pratt, 1862-4; Rev. William Rice, 1864-6; Rev. Henry T. Eddy, settled in April, 1866, died in September of that year; Rev. Guilford D. Brown, 1866-8; Rev. Joseph Candlin, 1868-71; Rev. J. W. Lee, 1871-2; Rev. William Wignall, 1872-4; Rev. N. F. Stevens, 1874-5; Rev. John Cadwell, settled in April, 1875, died in January, 1876; Rev. Joseph Scott, 1876-8; Rev. Jacob W. Price, 1878-9; Rev. Ichabod Marcy, 1879-82; Rev. I. H. Gaylord, 1882-4; Rev. W. M. Hubbard, 1886-8; Rev. I. H. Gaylord, 1888-90; Rev. Isaac S. Yerkes, 1890-93; Rev. W. H. Adams, 1893-5; Rev. E. C. Bridgham, 1895-8; Rev. W. T. Hale, 1898-1900; Rev. Wallace T. Miller, 1900.

The Roman Catholics of East Longmeadow began holding meetings in the town hall about 1883, and built a modest church in 1887, with a seating capacity of 300. In 1895 the house which had formerly been the Congregational parsonage, with two acres of land, was purchased for a parish house, and was fitted up for occupation as such. Until 1894 the church, known as St. Michael's, was, like that at West Longmeadow, a mission of St. William's church at Mittineague; but in the year named the two churches in Longmeadow were formed into an independent parish, and so continue at the present time. The pastors in charge have been as follows: Rev. Patrick Healy (monthly mass at West Longmeadow only), 1870-83; Rev. E. Pelletier, 1883-5; Rev. J. E. Campeau, 1885-8; Rev. J. H. A. Biron, 1888-90; Rev. Frederick Bonneville, 1890-93; Rev. Humphrey Wren, 1893; Rev. Anthony Dwyer (the first resident pastor), 1894-1900; Rev. John P. Hackett, 1900, now in charge.

The East Longmeadow public library was established in the winter of 1896-7, and now contains about 1,200 volumes,

with some 450 patrons. The expense of running the institution is met by an annual appropriation from the town, while some assistance in the way of furnishing books is received from the state library commission, and by the contribution of friends. The direction of the library is in the hands of a board of three trustees and a librarian, whose names appear in the list of town officers.

Apart from its agricultural interests, East Longmeadow owes its development principally to its valuable quarries of red sandstone, which have given to the town a wide fame. This stone underlies a considerable portion of the town, and has been quarried from the time of the early settlements. At first the stone was considered common property, and up to the beginning of the nineteenth century the party who discovered "a ledge" was considered to hold first title to work the same, even though located upon the land of another. But for the past 100 years the several quarries have, under the law, been held and operated by the owners of the land, or under lease from them. The stone has been shipped to all parts of the country, and has been used in many public buildings and other works. Much of it has been used in the United States armory buildings at Springfield, and from these quarries was taken the stone for the foundation of the formidable iron fence which incloses the armory grounds. In early times it was used for gravestones, and is still employed to some extent in monumental work. Wider use obtains, however, as a material for public buildings and fine private residences, many of which, in all sections of the country, have been constructed from the product of these quarries. Among such buildings may be mentioned the Pierce building, Estey Organ company's building, Youth's Companion building, new Trinity church, and residences of Oliver Ames and C. A. Whittier, at Boston; Harvard university gymnasium, Law School building and Sever hall, Cambridge; Vanderbilt hall, Walch hall, Phelps memorial, Osborne memorial and Bi-Centennial building at Yale college, New Haven, Conn.; Waldorf-Astoria hotel, Teachers' college, Union League club house, St. James' Episcopal church, Holy Trinity church, St. Agnes' church, Berkeley lyceum and

New York Athletic club building, New York city; Brooklyn Eagle building, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Crouse memorial building, Syracuse, N. Y.; the library, dormitory and Commencement hall at Princeton university, N. J.; the office buildings of the New England and New York Life Insurance companies at Kansas City, Mo.; New York Life Insurance company's building at Omaha, Neb.; Howard Memorial library, New Orleans, La.; and the Ames memorial monument in Wyoming, not to mention a multitude of other well known structures.

The color of the stone varies in the different quarries, consisting of sandstone, the Kibbe red, so called, and light brown stone. Some of the quarries have been operated for a hundred years, in a systematic way, and even longer than that, in a haphazard manner prior to the definite establishment of property rights in the stone. The more widely known of the quarries are the Taylor, Salisbury, McGregory, Billings, Kibbe, Pine Kibbe, Worcester and Maynard. The largest industry is carried on by the Norcross Brownstone company, organized early in 1901, succeeding to the business which had for twenty-seven years been conducted by the firm of Norcross Brothers. They employ more than a hundred hands, and have a fine new plant beside the tracks of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad for sawing and dressing stone for the trade. A large business is also done by the firm of James & Marra, with offices at Springfield, who employ an average of seventy-five men, and have a yearly output of about 12,000 tons of high-grade stone. Apparently the supply is inexhaustible, and the business gives promise of still increasing magnitude.

The area of the town is 13.4 square miles, and its population at the time of division, as shown by the state census of 1895, was 1,591; but in 1900 the national census showed a falling off to 1,187.

CHAPTER XIV

THE TOWN OF RUSSELL

On February 26, 1792, in response to a petition from a number of inhabitants in that part of the towns of Westfield and Montgomery which lay south of the main branch of Westfield river, the legislature passed an act creating a new town in Hampshire county, naming the jurisdiction Russell. Tradition says that the name was given in honor of a prominent citizen of Boston, who was closely associated with public events, and who, in consideration of the honor thus bestowed upon him, promised to donate to the first church society of the new town a bell for use in calling the settlers to worship.

The incorporation of another town in this part of the county seems to have been a necessity, for the settlers here were at much inconvenience in transacting business of a public nature at the seats of Westfield and Montgomery; therefore the general court conferred on the inhabitants full town powers, including authority to elect a representative to the legislature. This was not a favor but a right to which the settlers were entitled, for their number on the territory set off aggregated about 400 persons. Were the town records perfect an interesting narrative might be made setting forth the names of nearly all the heads of families who constituted the first settlers, but in Russell, as in many other of the old towns whose history dates back more than a century, the people had greater regard for the comfort and well-being of their families than for the formalities of strict attention to public records. This remark, however, must not be taken as a reflection upon our forefathers in Russell, for in few towns are the records found complete.

Tradition informs us that Russell was settled largely by people from Westfield, and that originally they came to the country west of the Connecticut from the eastern portions of Massachusetts and also from the Connecticut colonies. A few of them traced their ancestry to the time of the Puritans, while the majority were descended from the sturdy New Englanders who came into the new world at a later date, and finding the eastern plantations thickly settled, naturally turned to the more remote localities where lands were cheaper. At the time this upper valley of Westfield river had become known and some attempt at settlement had been made. After a few families had located here the region took the name of "New Addition", the same as was applied to Montgomery, and was so known until the incorporation of the town in 1792.

It is claimed that the pioneers of Russell were two brothers named Barber, and a Mr. Gray, who located and made the first improvement on what was known as Glasgow mountain, but whence they came, how long they remained, no past chronicler of Russell history furnishes us any clear light. But following them closely there came to this vicinity a band of sturdy settlers who cleared the lands and opened the way for later arrivals. They came chiefly from Westfield and among them were men and families of Scotch-Irish birth and parentage, strong, determined men and women who were resolved to make for themselves comfortable homes in the new locality.

Having recourse to old records and various accounts relating to early life in this vicinity, we are able to reproduce these names as representing substantially the earliest settlers in Russell: Isaac Palmer, Elias Parks, Levi Bishop, John Mallory, Ozias Finney, Isaac Bronson, John Hawley, Abraham Bradley, Dr. Stebbins, Titus Doolittle, Daniel Mallory, Andrew Mallory, Samuel Williams, Thomas Field, Jacob Loomis, Robert Hazard, Able Tuttle, Newman Bishop, Benjamin Todd, Stephen Hughes, Silas Noble, Benjamin Atwater, Joel Atwater, Richard Russell, Samuel Chapman, Seth Gridley and Jesse Newton. And there were others, probably as early in their settlement as any who are mentioned, but through the lapse of a century their names have been forgotten.

The surname Palmer has long been known in Russell history, both in town affairs and also in the substantial development of the land. Isaac Palmer left four sons, Squire, Loren, Elijah and Reuben, whose descendants are yet in the town and county. A glance at the civil records will show how the representatives of this surname have been prominently identified with Russell history. The surname Mallory had at least three representatives among the early settlers, and from them sprung a considerable number of descendants, although the pioneers are gone and the later-day generations have become scattered through other localities.

The Parks family through all generations from the time of Elias, the pioneer, who is believed to have settled here about the time of the revolutionary war, have been conspicuously identified with the civil and social history of the town. Elias Parks was selectman in 1810, and one of the family name now holds that office, and is, as well, engaged in industrial pursuits. Nelson D. Parks was county commissioner from 1858 to 1864. Levi Bishop had five sons—David, Aaron, James, Charles and Levi, jun.,—from whom have come the later men of the town bearing that name. Robert Hazard left no descendants. Isaac Bronson had several sons, among them being Allen, John and Harvey, but the surname now is not numerously represented in Russell. Titus Doolittle, himself a quiet, earnest plodder along life's path, was not specially active in public affairs, yet he provided well for his family. One son attained a seat on the bench of the courts in Vermont, and another entered the legal profession in this state, practicing in Hampshire county.

The Bishops, descendants of Newman Bishop, at one time were numerous in the town, and Newman, junior, attained nearly his hundredth year. The pioneer Bishop left three sons, Jeremiah, Alva and Newman, jun., whose descendants are now scattered through western Hampden county. Samuel Williams had five sons, all of whom, save one, removed to other localities. Jacob Loomis had six sons, Jacob, Hubbard, Josiah, Caleb, Lyman and Solomon. Abel Tuttle had four sons, Abel, Lyman, Almon and Daniel, through whom the family name has been

perpetuated in the county. Stephen Hughes had four sons, John, Stephen, Henry and John (2d), none of whom left children. Benjamin Atwater left children, among them being Harris, Titus and Noah. Benjamin Todd, one of the pioneers of the town, was an old revolutionary patriot and served with Gen. Israel Putnam. He had four sons and three daughters, but the family name now has few representatives in the county.

Silas Noble was a worthy settler, a man of influence in early Russell history and one whose surname has always maintained a high standing in western Hampden county. Silas' sons were Silas, jun., Roland, Reuben, Albert and Seth; and he also had three daughters. Richard Russell was the worthy head of a large family, there being five sons—Thomas, Simeon, Almon, Abel and Yale, the descendants of some of whom are yet in the county. Joel Atwater's family was quite large but now has few representatives in this locality.

Samuel Chapman, who is mentioned among the early settlers in Russell, was father of the late Chief Justice Reuben Atwater Chapman, of the Supreme judicial court. Judge Chapman was born in Russell and attained a higher position in public life than any other of our townsmen. A more extended reference to his life and career will be found in an earlier chapter of this work. Jesse Newton, of whom incidental mention has been made, was another of the prominent early settlers here. He had three sons—Elias, Ezra and Robert. This surname now has few representatives in this part of the county.

Present citizens of Russell will recall many of these old family names and perhaps a majority of those of the present generation of factors in the town's history can trace their ancestry to one or more of the settlers whose names are recorded on preceding pages. The claim is not made that the list is complete, or is as full as it should be, but in Russell the enquirer after events of early history encounters a number of adverse conditions, and few indeed are the instances in which reliable information can be secured relative to the year in which settlement was begun by the pioneers. In the early history of Westfield frequent allusion to these settlers will be found, for

what now is Russell originally was largely within the limits of that town.

It must be seen, however, that settlement in this locality did not begin much earlier than the closing years of the last French wars, and when once undertaken the number of settlers increased so rapidly that the creation of a new town became necessary. At the time of the first federal census the inhabitants here were enumerated as residents in Westfield and Montgomery, but in 1800 the number of persons living in Russell was 431. The subsequent growth and ultimate decline in population in the town, as shown by the census reports, has been as follows: 1810, 422; 1820, 491; 1830, 507; 1840, 555; 1850, 521; 1855, 677; 1860, 605; 1865, 618; 1870, 635; 1875, 643; 1880, 823; 1885, 847; 1890, 879; 1895, 846; 1900, 793.

From this it is seen that the maximum population was attained in 1890, since which time the total decrease has been less than 200, a somewhat remarkable fact when the town is placed in comparison with others in the county. This indicates a healthful condition of affairs at all periods of the town's history, and particularly during the last twenty-five years. In fact there are few abandoned or neglected farms in Russell, while within the boundaries of the town are at least three manufacturing interests of importance. Skirting the town on its northeast side is the Boston and Albany railroad, the operation of which has benefitted all local interests. Previous to the construction of the road Russell was a station of some consequence on the route of the Eighth turnpike corporation, which extended from Westfield into the town and thence to Falley's store in Blandford. One of the first highways laid out in this locality was that opened during the early years of the revolution and led west from Springfield through Westfield, entering the southeast corner of Russell in the neighborhood of Glasgow mountain, the latter more recently called Little Tekoa.

In connection with the settlement, growth and civil history of Russell we find no events of great importance. For more than a century the 8,340 acres of land comprising the town have been devoted chiefly to agriculture. The town has many excel-

Old Mill on Blandford Road

lent farming areas and the hill tops generally afford excellent pasturage for cattle. Lumbering, too, has been a leading pursuit for many years, the numerous streams furnishing abundant water power for operating saw mills, while the railroad affords ready access to profitable markets.

Whatever there is of revolutionary history in the town is narrated in the general chapters, and during the war of 1812-15 the sentiment existing among the inhabitants here was in accord with that in nearly all other towns in the county. John Carrington and Lyman Holmes are credited with having entered the service from Russell during that struggle, and in the war of 1861-5 more than fifty men enlisted from the town.

Civil History.—For several years previous to the incorporation of the town the inhabitants of this part of Westfield and Montgomery suffered many inconveniences by reason of their remote situation from the seat of town business, and for remedy thereof they petitioned the general court with result in the passage of the act of February 25, 1792, creating the new town of Russell. Soon afterward a warrant was issued for the first meeting for the election of officers, and thereupon the various positions were properly filled. However, no record is found to show who were the officers for the first year. Beginning with 1793 the succession of selectmen and town clerks is as follows:

Selectmen.—1793, Samuel Williams, Nehemiah Carter, Lovewell Thomas; 1794, Isaac Palmer, Joseph Mitchell, Titus Doolittle; 1795, Isaac Palmer, Joseph Mitchell, Silas Noble; 1796, Joseph Mitchell, Reuben Parks, Samuel Williams; 1797, Samuel Williams, Joseph Mitchell, Lovewell Thomas; 1798-1800, Samuel Williams, Reuben Parks, Silas Noble; 1801-02, Samuel Williams, Jacob Loomis, William Stancleft; 1803, Jacob Loomis, Levi Bishop, Isaac Palmer; 1804, Silas Doolittle, Levi Bishop, Stephen Hughes; 1805, Stephen Hughes, Isaac Palmer, Silas Noble; 1806, Thomas Day, Silas Noble, Stephen Hughes; 1807, Stephen Hughes, Jacob Loomis, Elias Parks; 1808, Dudley Williams, Abel Tuttle, John Gould; 1809, Daniel Sherman, Elias Parks, Henry Parks; 1810, Stephen Hughes, Elias Parks, Daniel Sherman; 1811, Stephen Hughes, Levi Bishop, Titus Doolittle;

1812, Elias Parks, Enoch Stiles, James C. Carter; 1813, Elias Parks, Daniel Sherman, Moses Allen; 1814, Levi Bishop, John Gould, jun., Dudley Williams; 1815, John Gould, James C. Carter, Elias Parks; 1816, Elias Parks, Dudley Williams, Roland Parks; 1817, Stephen Hughes, John Gould, Jeremiah Bishop; 1818, Jacob Loomis, Levi Bishop, Roland Parks; 1819, Roland Parks, Henry Parks, Jeremiah Bishop; 1820-25, Roland Parks, John Gould, Abel Tuttle, jun.; 1826, Roland Parks, Abel Tuttle, jun., Reuben Bradley; 1827, John Gould, Abel Tuttle, jun., Roland Parks; 1828-29, Zachariah Dickinson, Reuben Bradley, George Williams; 1830, John Gould, Abel Tuttle, jun., Roland Parks; 1831-32, John Gould, Abel Tuttle, jun., Linus Dickinson; 1833, Chauncey W. Morse, James Bishop, Benjamin Bennett; 1834, Chauncey W. Morse, Justin Loomis, Benjamin Bennett; 1835, John Gould, Abel Tuttle, jun., Benj. Bennett; 1836, Benjamin Bennett, Jeremiah Bishop, Justin Loomis; 1837, Chauncey W. Morse, Albert Noble, Jeremiah Bishop; 1838, John Gould, Benjamin Bennett, James Bishop; 1839, Roland Parks, Justin Loomis, Noah Atwater; 1840, Roland Parks, Benj. Bennett, William D. Mallory; 1841, Charles Tinker, James Loomis, Jabez Clark; 1842, Roland Parks, Daniel Fry, Benjamin Bennett; 1843, Daniel Fry, John Dickinson, Benj. Bennett; 1844, Roland Parks, John Dickinson, Allen Bronson; 1845, Benj. Bennett, Bradford W. Palmer, Jules Bedortha; 1846; Benj. Bennett, Nelson D. Parks, Lyman Parks; 1847, Bradford W. Palmer, Newman Bishop, Nelson D. Parks; 1848, Roland Parks, Newman Bishop, Nelson D. Parks; 1849, Roland Parks, Justin E. Loomis, William W. Cosby; 1850, Newman Bishop, jun., Marshall N. Fales, Lucius P. Bishop; 1851, Nelson D. Parks, Bradford W. Palmer, Henry K. Loomis; 1852, Bradford W. Palmer, David Parks, William L. Dickinson; 1853, William W. Cosby, Noah Atwater, Lucius P. Bishop; 1854, Newman Bishop, jun., Bradford W. Palmer, William L. Dickinson; 1855, Simeon Mallory, Sheldon Bronson, Stanton S. Clark; 1856, Simeon Mallory, Benj. Bennett, Joseph Osborn; 1857, Newman Bishop, A. J. Bradley, Horace Parks; 1858, Newman Bishop, A. J. Bradley, Stanton S. Clark; 1859, Roland Parks, Benj. Bennett, Dexter

Parks; 1860, Nelson D. Parks, William Holmes, F. H. Bishop; 1861, Nelson D. Parks, Henry A. Gould, Edwin A. Russell; 1862, Nelson D. Parks, Allen J. Mallory, Horace Heath; 1863, Nelson D. Parks, Dexter Parks, Edwin A. Russell; 1864, Roland Parks, Dexter Parks, Dwight S. Bronson; 1865, Roland Parks, Edwin A. Russell, William Pomeroy; 1866-67, Nelson D. Parks, Simeon Mallory, Lyman Shurtleff; 1868, Nelson D. Parks, Simeon Mallory, A. H. Lewis; 1869, Nelson D. Parks, Simeon Mallory, William Holmes; 1870, Simeon Mallory, Horace Parks, William Holmes; 1871, Horace Parks, William Holmes, Marvin Wright; 1872-73, Horace Parks, William Holmes, Robert Pitcher; 1874, Horace Parks, Roland Parks, Wilbur O. Merrill; 1875, Horace Parks, George T. Bryant, Leonard P. Palmer; 1876, Horace Parks, F. E. Bushnell, William Holmes; 1877, Horace Parks, F. E. Bushnell, Roland Parks; 1878, F. E. Bushnell, Dexter Parks, L. B. Palmer; 1879-80, Horace Parks, William Holmes, Robert Pitcher; 1881, Horace Parks, Marvin Wright, Leonard P. Palmer; 1882, Horace Parks, William Holmes, Albert L. Quance; 1883, Arthur S. Parks, Albert L. Quance, Marvin Wright; 1884, Arthur S. Parks, John H. Fenton, Bradford W. Palmer; 1885, Arthur S. Parks, Jarvis W. Gibbs, William Holmes; 1886, Henry S. Eldridge, Albert L. Quance, George H. Allen; 1887, Eugene D. Parks, Frank Gurney, George H. Allen; 1888, Eugene D. Parks, Albert L. Quance, George H. Allen; 1889, Jarvis W. Gibbs, Albert L. Quance, George H. Allen; 1890, Horace Parks, Albert L. Quance, William Holmes; 1891, E. I. Webster, Albert L. Quance, George H. Mortimore; 1892, Albert L. Quance, George H. Mortimore, William Holmes; 1893-94, Albert L. Quance, George H. Mortimore, Robert L. Parks; 1895, Albert L. Quance, Robert L. Parks, William Holmes; 1896, Albert L. Quance, Theodore H. Clark, Wm. Holmes; 1897-98, Albert L. Quance, Homer B. Fletcher, George H. Allen; 1899, Albert L. Quance, John J. Brennan, Homer B. Fletcher; 1900, Albert L. Quance, John J. Brennan, Eugene D. Parks; 1901, Eugene D. Parks, John J. Brennan, George H. Allen.

Town Clerks.—Robert Hazzard, 1793-96; Joseph Mitchell, 1797; Robert Hazzard, 1798; Levi Chapman, 1799-1805; Isaac

Palmer, 1806-10; Dudley Williams, 1811; Isaac Palmer, 1812-17; Dudley Williams, 1818-19; Isaac Palmer, 1820-25; Reuben Bradley, 1826; Reuben Palmer, 1827-30; Linus Dickinson, 1831-32; Jeremiah Bishop, 1833; John Dickinson, 1834-36; Zachariah Dickinson, 1837-38; James Bishop, 1839-40; John Dickinson, 1841-42; Wm. D. Mallory, 1843-44; Roland Parks, 1845-46; Lucius P. Bishop, 1847-48; Nelson D. Parks, 1849-50; Justin E. Loomis, 1851-52; H. L. Gridley, 1853; J. W. Gibbs, 1854; Joseph Gridley, 1855-57; J. W. Gibbs, 1858; Horace Parks, 1859-60; Roland Parks, 1861-64; Joseph Hutchinson, 1865; Nelson D. Parks, 1866; Howell Parks, 1867-69; S. F. Root, 1870; R. W. Parks, 1871; Henry L. Goodrich, 1872; J. B. Smith, 1873; E. E. Gibbs, 1874; George T. Bryant, 1875; Henry L. Goodrich, 1876-81; Arthur S. Parks, 1882; Henry L. Goodrich, 1883; Arthur S. Parks, 1884; Frank Gurney, 1885-88; J. Henry Spencer, 1889-92; Samuel C. Warner, 1893; Eugene D. Parks, 1894-95; Homer B. Fletcher, 1896; Eugene D. Parks, 1897-1901.

Town Officers, 1901.—E. D. Parks, George H. Allen, John J. Brennan, selectmen, overseers of the poor, assessors and board of health; E. D. Parks, town clerk; R. L. Parks, H. C. Parsons, auditors; Horace E. Clapp, treasurer and collector; S. S. Shurtleff, highway surveyor; W. S. Lincoln, Wm. Pomeroy, cemetery commissioners; Milton S. Thompson, John J. Galvin, Arthur Scott, school committee; Mrs. A. W. Goodrich, librarian; A. W. Goodrich, John H. Bigger, J. B. Tucker, trustees of Russell free public library; A. E. Abbott, T. H. Clark, Eugene D. Parks, Robert L. Parks, justices of the peace.

Villages and Hamlets.—Previous to the construction of the Boston and Albany railroad the only trading place in the town was at Russell, which was more frequently called the Centre. Since the town was founded a store has been kept here, and since the railroad was opened a hotel has been in operation. When the road was built the thoughtful residents along the street leading from the station to the center of the hamlet set out trees on both sides, for at that time there were indications that Russell would be a village of considerable importance. This hope was only partially realized, but in the course of time the main street

became one of the most beautifully shaded thoroughfares in the county, and is so regarded to-day. For many years the place has been well provided with business interests, yet it is doubtful if these were ever more substantial than at the present time, unless we except the period during which Russell was a station on the line of the old turnpike road leading east and west across the state. A few of the older residents, contemporaries of such men as Horace Parks and Joseph Gridley, will recall this old yet enjoyable period of our history, but the recollections of our pres-

High Bridge—Fairfield

ent middle-aged men date generally from the opening of the railroad and the building of a depot at Russell. Mr. Parks was station agent here forty-two years, and his son now holds that position.

The principal business interests of Russell at the present day comprise the stores kept by T. H. Clark and Henry B. Martin, both of which are well-stocked general establishments; the attractive and well-appointed hotel kept by John Chaplin; the usual number of small shops found in all country villages,

and the brick and tile works, the latter an industry of much importance in the locality. The Blandford brick and tile works has been a local interest for twelve or fifteen years, but originally was located in the town of Blandford, from whence comes the greater part of the raw material now used. The works are operated with Worcester capital, employ local wage earners, and under the capable management of W. S. Lincoln comprise one of the best business concerns of the town.

Fairfield is the name of a small hamlet on Westfield river, about two and one-half miles below Russell Centre, in a locality formerly known as Salmon Falls. This place first gained prominence about twenty-five years ago, when the Jessup & Laflin Paper company built works and began the manufacture of paper on an extensive scale. The company has since been in successful operation, although changes have been made in its management, and it now is known as the Woronoco Paper company. The other business interests in this locality comprise the hotel (in a delightful situation and a most popular resort for hunting, fishing and outing parties) kept by Alfred Cosby, and the large general store owned by J. T. Beede, who also is postmaster.

The Chapin & Gould paper mills are located up the river toward Huntington, about two miles above Russell village, and have been one of the principal industries of the town since 1858. The plant here is owned and operated with Springfield capital and employs local workmen chiefly.

In addition to these interests there are several others of less note which may be mentioned without regard to special location. They are the charcoal works of the Richmond Iron company; the glove and shirt works, of which W. B. Shelley is manager; the grist and saw mills of Alfred Keeler; the lumbering interests of E. D. Parks & Co., and the saw mill of A. B. Pendleton. In the town John Flack is blacksmith; Frank Hathaway, provision and fish dealer; S. L. Bronson, hay and feed dealer, and George H. Mortimer, provision dealer.

Churches.—The ecclesiastical history of Russell has been uneventful, and of the various societies which from time to time have found a lodgement in the town only two have miantained a

permanent existence. The Baptists, an offshoot from the church at Westfield, appear to have been first on the ground and planted their society here in 1786, under the name of the First Baptist church of Russell. A house of worship was built in 1792, but about 1810 the society dissolved, only to be re-established in 1816, with Elder Asa Todd as pastor. The old meeting house was burned in 1820 and was replaced with a new one in 1826. The present edifice was erected in 1853. The present pastor of this church is Rev. John H. Bigger.

A Congregational society and church were organized in Russell in November, 1800, by Rev. Joseph Badger, but after

Methodist Church—Russell

about thirty years of struggle against adversity in various forms it passed out of active existence and its members affiliated with the Baptist and Methodist societies. About 1820 the Congregational and Methodist societies built a union meeting house, but the structure was torn down in 1830.

The Methodist Episcopal society came into life in the town about 1818 and maintained a varied existence thereafter for many years. When the Congregational society dissolved it gained added strength, but had no regular house of worship between 1830 and 1869, when the church edifice at the Centre was erected. Since that time it has grown in strength and

influence, and now ranks with the best of its denomination in any of the outlying towns. The present pastor is Rev. E. H. Weyant.

Schools.—Little can or need be said of the general system of education employed in this town. It always has been in conformity with the broad and liberal scheme prescribed by the state laws, and in excellence is in full keeping with that employed in other towns. The records give us little light on the subject of early schools, yet it is known that one of the first measures adopted by the new town was a vote to maintain schools in each of the established districts. The latter have been changed from time to time, as occasion required, the number being increased or reduced according to the population of the town; but at no time has there been a tendency to lower the standard of efficiency.

As now disposed, the town comprises eight school districts, and for school maintenance about $2,200 are annually raised by local tax. The town's share in the school funds is about $495 each year. Eight schools are supported and eight teachers are employed. The school census shows about 140 children between 5 and 15 years of age. The annual school expenses aggregate about $2,500.

During the more than a century of its history, Russell has produced many strong and influential men, and has sent to the legislature, and elsewhere in public station, some of the best material the county has ever furnished. The late Chief Justice Chapman was born and spent his young life in Russell, and was perhaps the most distinguished of the town's contribution to high office. Among the other notable men of the town there may be recalled the names of "Squire" Newman Bishop, son of Newman Bishop, Sr., a revolutionary patriot; Benjamin Bennett, a substantial farmer years ago on Russell mountain in the south part of the town; Abel and Thomas Russell and Noah Atwater, all old-time prosperous farmers; Robert Parks, son of Elias Parks, the pioneer, and father of Horace Parks, the latter now one of Russell's oldest citizens; Roland Parks, the old selectman; Nelson D. Parks, who died in Huntington, was for several

years county commissioner, at one time was revenue collector, and was for several years justice, many cases being tried before him; William Pomeroy, who died in 1901; Jarvis Gibbs, merchant at Russell more than twenty-five years; John Gould, one of the foremost men of the town in his time, and who died in the west; Reuben Palmer, Linus Dickinson, Simeon Mallory, John Dickinson, all prominent local characters in their time; William Crosby, who built the now known Horace Parks residence; Justin Loomis, a man of means and business capacity; Lyman Bradley, father of former Sheriff A. M. Bradley; James Bishop, a substantial farmer on Russell mountain, and others whose names are now lost.

In like manner it is proper to refer briefly to some of the principal factors in Russell history at the present time, and in this connection we may mention the names of such men as Albert L. Quance, who had charge of the work of construction of the admirable state road between Fairfield and Russell; Horace Parks, a veteran in public affairs in the town and now one of its oldest citizens; Robert L. Parks, the station agent and usual moderator in town meetings; J. T. Beede, the merchant at Fairfield; Alfred Cosby, the landlord at Fairfield; W. S. Lincoln, superintendent of the brick and tile works; Eugene D. Parks, town clerk and thorough business man; Sidney F. Shurtleff, former surveyor of highways; T. H. Clark, the Russell merchant and postmaster; G. H. Allen, farmer near Fairfield; S. F. Stephens, substantial farmer; William Mortimer, an enterprising and successful farmer and cattle dealer; M. S. Thompson, chairman of the school committee; Henry Griffin, the railroad "section boss"; Joseph Gridley, one of the oldest men in the town, and a native; Henry G. Mortimer, farmer and cattle dealer. Still other names might be added to this list, but none that are here mentioned should be taken away.

CHAPTER XV

THE TOWN OF TOLLAND

In 1754 the colonial government of Massachusetts Bay established the old plantation of Bedford as the district of Granville, and in 1775 the general court conferred on the jurisdiction full town powers. Under these names and with an extensive territory the early settlement of the region was accomplished, and so rapidly did the planters from the east possess themselves of the high and fertile lands of the locality that the territory was divided into parishes for the convenience of the inhabitants and took the names, respectively, of East, Middle (or Centre) and West parish.

On June 14, 1810, at a time when the West parish contained almost 800 inhabitants, the legislature passed an act to divide the town of Granville, which act reads in part as follows: Be it enacted, &c., "That the West parish in Granville, in the county of Hampshire, as known by its present bounds, be and hereby is incorporated and established as a separate town by the name of Tolland, with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the requisitions of other towns, according to the constitution and laws of this commonwealth."

Tolland occupies a position in the extreme southwest corner of Hampden county, the Connecticut state line bounding the town on the south, while on the west lies Berkshire county. Throughout this entire region the land surface is broken by irregular ranges of hills, some of which have an altitude varying from 1,200 to 1,500 feet above tide water. Indeed, it is said that Tolland, with the possible exception of Chester, has some of the highest elevations in the county, but notwithstanding the rugged character of its surface the town has few areas of land unfit for

cultivation, and the hills furnish an abundance of grazing lands and also produce a superior quality of hay and grain. More remotely distant from the county seat than any other town, and having no streams of sufficient size to raft logs or lumber to market, Tolland still has large tracts of forest lands, some of which have not been touched by the woodman's axe.

Settlement.—While this part of Hampshire county was known as the plantation of Bedford, its settlement was begun by pioneers from the east, while a few of the Durham colony who settled the Middle parish of Granville gradually found their way over into the hill regions of the West parish. No reliable record is found to inform us who was the pioneer of the town, and the present generation of inhabitants have no traditions on this subject. Still, it is known that some time about the year 1750 a number of families came to the locality, purchased lands and made settlements. Of this number there is handed down to us the name of Jabez Rogers, a worthy man and the progenitor of a large family of ten sons and two daughters. These children were Leonard, Jabez, Samuel, Nathaniel, Asa, Percy, Russell, Martin, Dwyer, John, Lucy and Sarah, from whom, by their marriages in subsequent years, has sprung a considerable proportion of the town's population.

Thomas Twining was another of the first settlers, and was the pioneer of that well known family of the town in all later years, who have been such prominent factors in local history. The sons of Thomas were William and Stephen, and he also had three daughters. One of the latter married Joseph Wolcott, of Sandisfield; another married Chauncey Fowler and lived and died in Tolland; and the third married a Mr. Gorham and settled in the west. Elijah Twining, brother of Thomas, also was an early settler, if not one of the first colony. His eight children were William, Eleazer, Ruth, Lewis, Judah, Timothy, Susan and Lois, from whom have descended some of the best families of Tolland, although not all of them spent their lives here.

Titus Fowler was one of the first settlers and also was one of the foremost men in the original colony. In his family were six children, John, Chauncey, Titus, Eliza, Catharine and Han-

nah, a portion of whom always lived in the town, but others, and some of the descendants of nearly all of them, settled in other parts of the country. Ebenezer Harding, also of the first colony and a most worthy man, was one of the few first colonists of whom little is now known. He left children and his surname always has been preserved in the town. Marvin Moore was still another settler of whom little is recalled in the way of personal remembrance. David Slocum's descendants are still active factors in Tolland history, and they have just pride in their family ancestry, for if local tradition is reliable the pioneer Slocum was a man of influence in the affairs of the west parish. In the family of Pierce Marshall, another of the original sixteen settlers, were five sons, Pierce, George, Samuel, Dudley and Gaius, and the descendants of some of them are still living in the town.

James Hamilton, whose family name has been known in all succeeding years, was another of the earliest settlers in the old west parish. His sons were John, Robert, Thomas, Henry, James and Samuel, nearly all of whom in turn raised families, although few indeed are now in Tolland to represent them. The Granger surname is better represented, and by some of the best stock in the town, for George W. Granger, grandson of the pioneer of the family, was for many years one of Tolland's best men, and for years was chairman of the selectmen. The pioneer was Abraham Granger, a good, worthy man, much respected by his fellow townsmen. In his family were two sons and three daughters, the former being Launcelot and George W. Granger. John Manchester, who came here in 1750 with the first colony, is not directly represented in the present generation of the town's people, his children having settled in other localities, some in Connecticut and others in the far West. Pioneer Manchester's sons were William, John, Shadrach and Samuel. Of his daughters, one married and spent her life in the town, but the others removed to new localities in the west many years ago.

Among the other original colonists of the west parish there may be recalled the names of Samuel Hubbard, James Barlow, Moses Gough, David Fowler, and also John, Robert and Thomas

Hamilton, who were grown sons of James Hamilton and came with their father at the time the colony was planted in or about 1750. These, so far as present records and obtainable information tend to show, were the first settlers in the west parish of Granville, a part of the old plantation of Bedford, and now known as the town of Tolland. It was full three-score years after their settlement was made that Tolland became a town, and many of the founders never lived to see the change in jurisdiction. They came about the middle of the eighteenth century to a rugged wilderness country, drawn by the ever restless spirit of emigration which infected all the eastern colonies about that time; but the principal inducement which attracted them was the cheapness of the lands offered by the proprietors of the Bedford plantation. Following them came others, some from the eastern towns of Massachusetts and others from the shore country of Connecticut, and notwithstanding the disadvantages under which they labored and the multitude of hardships of life in the new locality, their work was well done, and they, the first settlers of Tolland, contributed a full share in establishing the mother town as one of the most populous and important civil divisions of old Hampshire county. This is no idle boast, for it is a fact that in 1790 the town of Granville contained 1,979 inhabitants, while Springfield, including what now is Chicopee, had 1,574 inhabitants. In 1800 Granville had 2,309 inhabitants, and the present county seat of Hampden had 2,312 inhabitants.

When Tolland was set off from Granville in 1810 the new town took from the mother territory more than one-third of her lands and a like proportion of the population; from which we may properly infer that the old west parish was as well settled and developed as any portion of the original town. At that time the territory comprising Tolland had attained its greatest population, and in all later years, with few exceptions, the number of inhabitants has steadily decreased. However, let us have recourse to the statistics of the census and note the changes in the town's population: 1810, 798; 1820, 692; 1830, 723; 1840, 627; 1850, 594; 1860, 596; 1865, 511; 1870, 509; 1875, 452; 1880, 452; 1885, 422; 1890, 303; 1895, 309; 1900, 275.

In accordance with the provisions of the incorporating act, one of the magistrates of Granville issued his warrant for the first town meeting in the new jurisdiction, and thereupon the organization was made complete. A full board of officers was elected, and from that time the records, except those of births, marriages and deaths, have been carefully preserved. Having recourse to the clerk's books, we are able to furnish a complete list of the selectmen and town clerks from the organization of the town to the present time.

Selectmen.—1810, James Hamilton, Perez Marshall, William Twining; 1811, James Hamilton, Jabez Wright, John W. Babcock; 1812, John W. Babcock, Hull Slocum, Caleb Birt; 1813, James Hamilton, Perez Marshall, jun., Hull Slocum; 1814, Perez Marshall, Nathan Hall, William Twining, 1st; 1815, James Hamilton, Merrin Moore, Eleazer Slocum; 1816, Capt. Allen Bidwell, Henry Hamilton, jun., Eleazer Slocum; 1817, Capt. Allen Bidwell, Warren Gates, Abraham Granger; 1818, Perez Marshall, Selah Butler, Warren Gates; 1819, Abraham Granger, Charles Remington, Samuel Hamilton; 1820, Samuel Hamilton, Abraham Granger, William Twining, 2d; 1821, John Hull, Walter Babcock, Josiah Remington; 1822-23, Josiah Remington, Joel Humphrey, John Rogers; 1824, Josiah Remington, Joel Humphrey, Archibald Wright; 1825, Archibald Wright, Samuel Hamilton, Allen Bidwell; 1826, Samuel Hamilton, Archibald Wright, William Twining, 2d; 1827, Samuel Hamilton, Noah Shepard, Warren Gates; 1828, Josiah Remington, Israel Carrier, George W. Granger; 1829, Josiah Remington, George W. Granger, Walter W. Babcock; 1830, Samuel Hamilton, Eleazer Slocum, Alanson Hubbard; 1831, Leonard Cowles, Launcelot Granger, Samuel Hall; 1832, Launcelot Granger, Leonard Cowles, Arch. Wright; 1833, same as 1832; 1834, George W. Granger, Lyman Twining, Loyal Humphrey; 1835, Lyman Twining, Leonard Cowles, Chester Chapman; 1836, Chester Chapman, Oliver E. Slocum, Arial Frost; 1837, Leonard Cowles, Lyman Twining, George W. Granger; 1838, Lyman Twining, William E. Barnes, Lester Marshall; 1839, William E. Barnes, Hull T. Slocum, Alonzo Marshall; 1840, George W. Granger,

James Hunt, Bennett Palmer; 1841, George W. Granger, Leonard Cowles, William C. Nye; 1842, Leonard Cowles, Wm. E. Barnes, Lyman Twining; 1843, Leonard Cowles, Launcelot Granger, Stiles Slocum; 1844, George W. Granger, William Nye, Franklin Harvey; 1845, George W. Granger, Oliver E. Slocum, Chester Chapman; 1846, Wm. E. Barnes, Lyman Twining, Perez M. Fowler; 1847, Lucien Hotchkiss, Shadrack Manchester, Alonzo Miller; 1848, Lucien Hotchkiss, George W. Granger, Oliver E. Slocum; 1849, Lucien Hotchkiss, N. E. Slocum, Hiram C. Brown; 1850, William E. Barnes, Noah B. Nye, Nathan E. Slocum; 1851, Daniel Spring, Noah B. Nye, Edward L. Tinker; 1852, George W. Granger, Oliver E. Slocum, Fowler T. Moore; 1853, Fowler T. Moore, Leonard Cowles, William Tinker; 1854, Fowler T. Moore, Oliver E. Slocum, Amos L. Hull; 1855, George W. Granger, Noah B. Nye, Lyman Twining; 1856,Lyman Twining, Noah B. Nye, Edward L. Tinker; 1857, Rufus Smith, Lyman Twining, Philander F. Twining; 1858, Philander F. Twining, Hiram C. Brown, Samuel Hamilton, jun.; 1859, Philander F. Twining, Samuel Hamilton, jun., Daniel Spring; 1860, Philander F. Twining, Samuel Hamilton, George W. Granger; 1861, Philander F. Hamilton, Daniel Spring, Edward L. Tinker, jun.; 1862, Hiram C. Brown, Lyman Twining, George W. Granger; 1863-64, Philander F. Twining, Lyman Twining, George W. Granger; 1865, George W. Granger, Philander F. Twining, Nathan E. Slocum; 1866, George W. Granger, Philander F. Twining, Samuel C. Marshall; 1867, George W. Granger, Noah B. Nye, Nelson B. Twining; 1868, George W. Granger, N. B. Twining, Samuel C. Marshall; 1869, N. B. Twining, Samuel C. Marshall, Charles N. Marshall; 1870-71, LaFayette Granger, Julius P. Hall, George L. Marshall; 1872-73, Nelson B. Twining, George L. Marshall, F. S. Hale; 1874, Geo. W. Granger, Samuel C. Marshall, W. F. Hale; 1875, Fowler F. Moore, Samuel C. Marshall, E. D. Larkin; 1876-77, George W. Granger, Nelson B. Twining, Wellington Hale; 1878, George L. Marshall, Julius P. Hall, Fowler F. Moore; 1879, George W. Granger, Wellington F. Hale, Oliver E. Slocum, jun.; 1880, Oliver E. Slocum, jun., Erastus D. Larkin, Franklin H. Pratt; 1881, Oliver E. Slocum,

jun., Orrison E. Snow, Franklin H. Pratt; 1882, Wellington F. Hale, Erastus D. Larkin, Charles N. Marshall; 1883, Oliver E. Slocum, jun., Orrison E. Snow, Chas. N. Marshall; 1884, Oliver E. Slocum, jun., Wellington F. Hale, Franklin H. Pratt; 1885, Oliver E. Slocum, Wellington F. Hale, Erastus D. Larkin; 1886, Oliver E. Slocum, Wellington F. Hale, Watson I. Hale; 1887, Wellington F. Hale, Erastus D. Larkin, Frank R. Moore; 1888, Wellington F. Hale, Frank R. Moore, Erastus D. Larkin; 1889, same as 1888; 1890, Wellington F. Hale, Samuel C. Tiffany, Marshall Miller; 1891, Wellington F. Hale, Frank R. Moore, Watson I. Hale; 1892, Wellington F. Hale, Samuel C. Tiffany, Giles H. Farnham; 1893-95, Oliver E. Slocum, Samuel C. Tiffany, Eugene M. Moore; 1896, Giles H. Farnham, Eugene M. Moore, Luke R. Moore; 1897, Oliver E. Slocum, Wellington F. Hale, Erastus D. Larkin; 1898, Charles N. Marshall, Eugene M. Moore, John M. Hayes; 1899, Oliver E. Slocum, Wellington F. Hale, Frank B. Deming; 1900-1901, Oliver E. Slocum, John R. Rogers, Frank B. Deming.

Town Clerks.—Henry Hamilton, jun., 1810-14; Samuel Hamilton, 1815-16; Henry Hamilton, 1817-18; Allen Bidwell, 1819-20; Henry Hamilton, 1821-26; John Rogers, 1827; Henry Hamilton, 1828-29; Edward L. Tinker, 1830-32; Alanson Hubbard, 1833-34; Joseph D. Slocum, 1835; Leonard Cowles, 1836; Roger Harrison, 1837-41; Alfred Webber, 1842-44; Rufus Smith, 1845-49; William W. Harrison, 1850-55; Samuel Hamilton, jun., 1855-60; Rufus Smith, 1861; Samuel Hamilton, 1862; William H. Harrison, 1863-73; F. R. Moore, 1873-76; Homer P. Twining, 1876-79; Wilbert Munn, 1880-1901.

The town officers of Tolland for the year 1901 are as follows: Oliver E. Slocum, John R. Rogers, Frank B. Deming, selectmen, assessors, overseers of the poor and board of health; Wilbert Munn, town clerk, continuously since 1880; Philip L. C. Slocum, auditor; Wilbert Munn, treasurer; John R. Rogers, Irving G. Chapel, collectors; F. B. Deming, highway commissioner; Irving G. Chapel, constable; Wilbert Munn, justice of the peace.

For a century and a half Tolland has been an agricultural town, and in response to patient endeavor on the part of hus-

bandmen its lands have been made to yield exceedingly well considering the generally hilly character of the region. Cattle and dairy products are the chief staples, yet in hay and grain good annual crops are harvested. Many years ago an attempt was made to grow tobacco in the town, and while the effort was not a failure it did not meet with the success which was hoped for. In many other ways the people have been progressive and enterprising, and have been strenuous in their endeavors to maintain the town's population despite the wide-spread inclination of the younger element to abandon the home farms (where at least a comfortable living was assured) for the greater pleasures and less arduous work of occupations in the cities and large villages. This great exodus of strong young manhood from the rural localities began about twenty-five years ago, and has been kept up to the present day; and as its result almost every outlying town in the counties of this state (and many other states as well) has thereby lost much of the best element of its population. The theory is a mistaken one, the principle is wrong, the results are disastrous, yet the desire for city life and its alluring pleasures seems too strong to resist, hence the old home farms where our forefathers dwelt and were comfortable must suffer neglect and consequent loss in value.

Tolland never has been noted for its manufactures and while lumbering operations always have been carried on with more or less perseverance the distance to profitable markets has precluded the possibility of extensive efforts in that direction. Previous to about twenty years ago a small tannery was operated on Farmington river by Albert Hull, and a furniture factory was for a time carried on in the north part of the town by Charles N. Marshall, who now is engaged in business as a lumberman. Something more than thirty years ago the people here became thoroughly interested in a railroad enterprise, which was promised by an incorporated company, but through some cause the project was abandoned, greatly to the discouragement of all the townsfolk. The chief industries of the town at the present time are the saw and shingle mills owned by H. B. Deming, C. W. Ives, Abner Johnson, W. N. Rowley, C. B. Soule and

H. W. Soule; the cider mills of A. H. Case and C. H. Moody, and the lumbering operations of Mr. Marshall.

The pleasant little hamlet called Tolland, originally known as West Granville, occupies a central position in the town, and is sixteen miles distant southwest from Westfield by stage route. It has no mercantile interests of consequence, the inhabitants trading almost wholly in adjoining towns. The few interests centered here, or having an existence in Tolland, are the blacksmith shop of Wilbert Munn, who also is the town clerk and a justice of the peace; the post-office (Alice A. Harrison, post-

Tolland Center

mistress), and the shoe shops of N. O. Chaffee, J. C. Hodges and F. H. Pratt. The institutions are the free town library (Wilbert Munn, librarian, and Oliver E. Slocum, E. M. Moore and L. R. Moore, trustees); the public school (Oliver E. Slocum, chairman; Mrs. T. G. Chapel and John R. Rogers, school committee); and the Congregational church.

The Congregational church of Tolland dates its history from 1795, when a few of the scattered inhabitants gathered together and organized a society in the third or west parish of Granville.

In the course of a year or two the little flock succeeded in building a meeting house and all the inhabitants of the parish gathered within the edifice every Sabbath day for public worship. Rev. Roger Harrison was the first pastor here, installed as such in 1798 and continuing his connection with the society until 1822. The church never was strong in numbers and has not been able to support a resident pastor at all times, hence West Granville and Tolland were united under one pastorate. The present church edifice was erected in 1842. The present pastor is Rev. Gilbert A. Curtiss. The membership numbers 32 persons. A Baptist society was formed in the "south quarter" (a distinguishing name) of the town about 1830, but it never gained sufficient strength to erect a house of worship or to maintain a permanent existence.

The public school arrangement of Tolland was made while the town constituted the west parish of Granville, therefore when this town was set off the work of redistricting was the most important duty that devolved upon the school committee. The records for this period of the town's history are imperfect, and we have no definite knowledge of what was done in regard to the schools prior to 1849. Under the present disposition of school interests in the town the territory comprises five districts, each with a school house, while according to the last published report of the committee the number of children of school age in the town is but 68. Five teachers are employed annually. The town has no superintendent of schools, the duties of that office being performed by the school committee whose names are given in a preceding paragraph.

Notwithstanding the disadvantages of remote location and the absence of large commercial enterprises, Tolland has produced many men of strength and integrity of character. This element of progressive population has not been confined to the early generations of the town's people, but during the last half century there have been many earnest factors in domestic and public life in the town. In this connection there may be recalled the names of such men as the late G. W. Granger, Alonzo Miller, Daniel Spring, Alonzo Marshall, George L. Marshall, Oliver E.

Slocum, E. D. Slocum, E. D. Moore, P. F. Twining, N. B. Twining, H. C. Brown, Samuel Hamilton, N. E. Slocum, Henry Hamilton, Edward L. Tinker and Fowler F. Moore, nearly all of whom were born in Tolland, some of them descendants of pioneer stock, and all men of excellent character and moral worth, an honor to any town. And among the men of the present day there are many whose names are worthy of mention in these pages; such men as O. E. Slocum, farmer; Wilbert Munn, mechanic, town clerk and justice of the peace; H. W. Soule, lumberman; J. R. Rogers, farmer and selectman; Giles Farnham, mechanic; J. D. Hall, farmer; F. B. Twining, farmer and lumberman; F. H. Pratt, farmer; M. S. and H. H. Marshall, farmers; O. E. Slocum, farmer; E. M. Brown, farmer; C. B. Soule, lumberman, and F. S. Hale, farmer.

CHAPTER XVI

THE TOWN OF WALES

A little more than a century and three-quarters ago, there was a large territory lying east of the town of Springfield which was described as "common land," a part of the public domain under the crown and subject to the immediate authority of the royal governor of the Massachusetts Bay. Sometime during the early part of the eighteenth century a number of adventurous whites had established themselves in various portions of this tract, and the locality being found desirable for colonization, it soon passed under the proprietary ownership, resulting in the formation of a plantation adjoining Springfield and auxiliary thereto.

The plantation was established in 1722, and in less than ten years afterward the territory was incorporated into a town by the name of Brimfield. During the next thirty years a large part of the available lands were well settled by people who came

from the eastern settlements, while the old town of Springfield furnished a fair contingent of the rapidly increasing population. In 1742 a part of the plantation on the east was set off to form Western, and in 1760 another portion on the west side was incorporated as a district and called Monson. In 1762 the remaining territory was divided and the south half was called the district of South Brimfield. On February 21, 1766, the latter district was divided into East and West parishes, the old South Meadow road leading from Brimfield south into Connecticut being the boundary line between them. August 23, 1775, the district of South Brimfield was made a town by a general act, and, July 5, 1783, the former East parish was made a district by the name of Holland. After this separation all the remaining part of South Brimfield was continued under that designation until February 20, 1828, when its name was changed to Wales.

Settlement in old Brimfield is believed to have begun soon after 1700, and probably a quarter of a century passed before an adventurous pioneer made a permanent location in the South Brimfield region. Over in Holland there was no attempt at occupation and improvement until after 1730, but in what is now Wales Anthony Needham and John Bullen chose their lots, built their cabins, and brought their families in 1726 or '27. If local tradition is reliable pioneer Needham was a man of much determination and the worthy leader of the vanguard of civilization in the town. He is said to have had eleven children, and one of his sons, Captain Anthony Needham, rendered excellent service during the revolution. He was the first representative of South Brimfield in the general court. The pioneer himself died in 1763. Pioneer Bullen spent his life in the town, but in later years his descendants became widely scattered. In the drawing of lots under the proprietory Needham secured "Lott 29", and Bullen "Lott 28", the former just west of what is sometimes called Wales pond, and the latter adjoining it.

If other settlers came into the town about the time that pioneers Needham and Bullen located here there is no present record of the fact. The belief is that the pioneers were on their lands something more than a year before other settlers began

to arrive, although the proprietors were constantly sending prospectors into the region with a view to settlement. Some of these remained here and bought land, but others came and soon departed. At this late date, nearly two centuries after the events took place, it is difficult to determine accurately who were the earliest settlers in the south half of the old mother town of Brimfield. However, having access to town records, old papers and other documents, we are able to recall the names of many of the early settlers in what now is Wales. In these researches we find the names of Munger, whose earliest representatives in this locality were Nathaniel, Elnathan, Samuel and Joseph Munger, names afterward well known and highly respected in the civil and social history of the town. This family in Wales annals dates from about 1728. Then there was Rev. Ebenezer Moulton and his brothers Samuel and John, who came here in 1728. Elder Moulton founded a Baptist society here in 1736, and served as captain in the French and English war in 1755. These families came to Brimfield from Salem and probably were accompanied by other settlers whose names cannot be recalled.

In glancing over old records we find the surnames of Hovey, Jordon, Johnson, Morgan, Collins, Shaw (Seth and Joshua), Gardner (Humphrey Gardner removed from Palmer to South Brimfield as early as 1736), Captain Trustrum Davis (a settler here in 1732 and an officer in the French wars), Thomas Green (1737), Robert Green (1748), Wm. Carpenter (1740), Ichabod and Joel Rogers (representatives of a family of much prominence in the later history of Wales. Joel Rogers represented the town in the general court in 1797, and was in many respects one of the foremost men in the town in his time), William Felton (an Irishman and probably the pioneer of his nationality in Wales), Shubael Dimmick (settled here about 1750 and erected one of the first saw mills in the locality), Capt. Daniel Winchester (came from Roxbury previous to 1760, and was an influential personage in town affairs, a delegate to the provincial congress in Salem in 1774, representative in the general court, and in business life a store-keeper in South Brimfield), Capt. Asa Fisk (who came from Hampton, Conn., in 1762, and conducted a

tavern as well as a large farm), Oliver Wales (who came into the town in 1766 from Union, in Connecticut), Elijah Wales (brother of Oliver), Rev. James Mellen (the second pastor of the Baptist church, and whose settlement here dated 1765), Rev. Elijah Coddington (who followed Elder Mellen in the pastorate), Asa Houghton (settled here 1779, represented the town in 1784 and died 1829).

In addition to those mentioned in preceding paragraphs, and who perhaps were the most prominent men of the town in their time, we may recall still other early settlers whose names are equally worthy of notice, although their work consisted in developing the resources of the region rather than in public service. We now make especial reference to such characters in local annals as James C. Royce (whose surname is still known in Wales), Darius Munger, John Munger, Nehemiah May (a conspicuous character in Holland history), Dr. James Lawrence (the pioneer physician), Humphrey Crane, Thomas Bond, Jonathan Crane, Abel Allen, Joseph Gardner, David Needham, Samuel Shaw, Josiah Gardner, Benjamin Winchester, and others whose names have been lost with the lapse of years, all of whom were factors in history previous to the beginning of the nineteenth century and many of whom were the ancestors of residents in the town at the opening of the twentieth century. Indeed, for more than one hundred years this town, whether known as South Brimfield or Wales, has been noted for the substantial character of its inhabitants, and glancing backward through the last century we discover that it has furnished its full quota of strong men who have been contributing factors in the civil and political history of Hampden county.

In many respects the early settlers in South Brimfield were an independent and courageous people, and the action of the proprietors of the lands, and also that of the government of the mother town, was not wholly agreeable to them. Therefore they caused the division of the territory and the creation of their own town, then comprising the East and West parishes. And even later there was something in the administration of affairs in the new jurisdiction which was not suited to their condition

and situation in life, hence, on September 5, 1774, it was voted to "choose twelve men as a court of justice and honor to determine all controversies" that might afterward arise in the district. This domestic judicial body comprised Capt. Nehemiah May, Jacob Howe, Nathaniel Munger, Asa Fisk, Anthony Needham, Daniel Winchester, Thomas Parker, Jonathan Wallis, Benjamin Blodgett, Edward Webber, Abel Allen and Joel Rogers, six numbers being selected from the inhabitants of each parish. The "court", however, was of brief duration, for in 1783 the East parish became a separate district and elected its own officers, except the representative. One of the objects of this court of twelve members was the equable administration of town affairs and the fair division of offices between the parishes. In 1774 the East parish sought a division of the territory on account of many inconveniences to which they were put, and again in 1779 the measure was advocated. In 1783 their endeavors were rewarded, the separation was granted, but thereafter for many years the towns of Holland and Wales united in electing a single representative to the legislature.

Previous to the organization of Hampden county (1812) the following representatives of the joint district were elected from Wales: Anthony Needham, 1775; David Bullen, 1780; Asa Houghton, 1784; Daniel Winchester, 1785 and '87; Darius Munger, 1786 and '90, 1794-95; Asa Fisk, 1788-89; Joel Rogers, 1797; Oliver Wales, 1800-01; Josiah Gardner, 1804; John Munger, 1805; Royal Wales, 1810-11. In the Hampden civil list in another part of this work may be found the subsequent representatives from Wales.

In speaking of the prominent characters in South Brimfield and Wales history it may be noted that in the provincial congress convened at Salem in 1774, this town was represented by Capt. Daniel Winchester. In the Cambridge convention in 1779 to adopt a constitution for the commonwealth, the town was represented by William Carpenter. In the Hatfield convention in April, 1781, and the Hadley convention in February, 1782, to devise means for the common defense and maintenance of troops then in the field, the town was represented by delegate

Joel Rogers. In the county convention held at Hatfield, August 22, and at Hadley, November 7, 1786, and also at the state convention at Boston in January, 1788, to devise means to relieve the extremities of the people caused by the war, this town was represented by Asa Fisk. In the peace party convention held in Northampton, July 14, 1812, this town, a majority of whose people were decidedly of federalistic tendencies, sent Darius Munger as its delegate.

Civil History.—The organization of the town in pursuance of the act of the legislature, the detail of which is set forth in an earlier paragraph, was accomplished with little difficulty. The act authorized justice of the peace Josiah Dwight to issue his warrant to some principal inhabitant (Jonathan Burk) of the new district, and to assemble the townsmen at the house of settler John Bishop for the purpose of electing officers. The meeting was held October 5, and Humphrey Crane acted as moderator. The succession of selectmen and town clerks follows:

Selectmen.—1762-65, Humphrey Needham, Humphrey Crane, Anthony Needham, Nehemiah May, John Moulton; 1766, Joseph Blodgett, Anthony Needham, John Moulton, James Lawrence, Samuel Munger; 1767, Joseph Blodgett, James Lawrence, Humphrey Needham; 1768, Humphrey Crane, Humphrey Needham, Dr. James Lawrence; 1769, Humphrey Crane, Joseph Blodgett, jun., Edward Webber; 1770, Humphrey Crane, Joseph Blodgett, jun., Anthony Needham; 1771, Asa Fisk, Joseph Blodgett, jun., Nehemiah May; 1772, Anthony Needham, Daniel Winchester, Nehemiah May; 1773, Anthony Needham, Asa Fisk, Nehemiah May; 1774, Anthony Needham, Daniel Winchester, Humphrey Crane; 1775, Anthony Needham, Asa Fisk, Humphrey Crane; 1776, Humphrey Crane, Daniel Winchester, Anthony Needham, Joseph Munger, Edward Webber; 1777, Daniel Winchester, Nehemiah May, Jonathan Wallis; 1778, Nehemiah May, Sherebiah Ballard, Benj. Blodgett; 1779, Thomas Bond, Darius Munger, William Belknap, Abner Needham, Joseph Needham; 1780, Jonas Blodgett, Wm. Belknap, Darius Munger, Jonathan Crane, Joseph Needham; 1781, Jonas Blodgett, Wm. Belknap, Darius Munger, Alfred Lynn, Joseph

Needham; 1782, Joel Rogers, Wm. Belknap, Abner Needham, Abel Allen, Joseph Munger; 1783, Joel Rogers, Wm. Belknap, Joseph Needham, Abel Allen, Darius Munger; 1784, Darius Munger, Joel Rogers, Joseph Needham; 1785, Samuel Winchester, Darius Munger, Asa Houghton; 1786, Joel Rogers, Darius Munger, David Needham; 1787, Joel Rogers, Darius Munger, Daniel Munger; 1788, Joel Rogers, Asa Fisk, Daniel Winchester; 1789, Joel Rogers, Asa Fisk, Darius Munger; 1790-92, Darius Munger, Joel Rogers, Asa Fisk; 1793, David Needham, Joel Rogers, Daniel Munger; 1794, John Munger, Joel Rogers, Daniel Munger; 1795, John Munger, Joel Rogers, Darius Munger; 1796, Darius Munger, Joseph Gardner, John Munger, David Needham, Samuel Shaw; 1797-98, Darius Munger, Josiah Gardner, John Munger; 1799, Nathan Wight, Oliver Wales; 1800, John Munger, Nathan Wight, Benj. Winchester; 1801, David Needham, Stephen Needham, Asa Fisk, jun., Asa Houghton, John Shaw; 1802, John Munger, Nathan Wight, John Shaw; 1803, Darius Munger, Joel Rogers, Asa Fisk; 1804, Darius Munger, John Munger, Oliver Wales; 1805, Darius Munger, Cyrus Munger, Stephen Needham; 1806-10, John Munger, Cyrus Munger, Stephen Needham; 1811, Asa Fisk, jun., James L. Wales, John Shaw; 1812, Jesse Moulton, Charles Gardner, Cyrus Munger; 1813, Jesse Moulton, Amasa Munger, Stephen Needham; 1814, Jesse Moulton, Timothy Fenton, James W. Needham; 1815, Jesse Moulton, Timothy Fenton, James L. Wales; 1816, Charles Gardner, Timothy Fenton, Alvin Needham; 1817, Alvin Needham, Timothy Fenton, Alfred Needham; 1818-20, Alvin Needham, John Smith, Alfred Needham; 1821, James L. Wales, Francis Miller, Alfred Needham; 1822, James L. Wales, Alvin Needham, John Smith; 1823, James L. Wales, John Smith, Alfred Needham; 1824, James L. Wales, Alfred Needham, Orrin Wales; 1825, Alvin Needham, John Smith, William Thompson; 1826, James L. Wales, John Smith, Wm. Thompson; 1827, Alfred Needham, John Smith, James Babcock; 1828, James L. Wales, John Smith, Alfred Needham; 1829-30, James L. Wales, John Smith, Francis Miller; 1831, John Smith, Charles Gardner, James Babcock; 1832, John Smith, Whitman Munger, James

Babcock; 1833, John Smith, Whitman Munger, Alfred Needham; 1834, James L. Wales, Charles Gardner, Alfred Needham; 1835, John Smith, Aaron Shaw, Alfred Needham; 1836, Charles Gardner, Aaron Shaw, Oliver Wales; 1837, James L. Wales, Absalom Gardner, Elijah C. Babcock; 1838, James C. Royce, Absalom Gardner, Whitman Munger; 1839, James C. Royce, Absalom Gardner, John White; 1840, Absalom Gardner, James C. Royce, Ames Walbridge, John White; 1841, Absalom Gardner, Ferdinand L. Burley, Nathan Palmer; 1842, Luther Parker, Horace Gardner, Nathan Palmer; 1843, Absalom Gardner, Ferdinand L. Burley, Ames Walbridge; 1844, Horace Gardner, Wm. Thompson, Ames Walbridge; 1845, Absalom Gardner, L. B. Wight, Alvan Andrews; 1846, Leonard P. Wight, James C. Royce, Eseck Luther; 1847, Leonard P. Wight, James C. Royce, A. A. Needham; 1848, Absalom Gardner, Horace Gardner, C. D. Brown; 1849, Absalom Gardner, N. H. Stowell, C. D. Brown; 1850, Absalom Gardner, N. H. Stowell, James C. Royce; 1851, Absalom Gardner, Warren Shaw, Silas Perry; 1852, Alfred Needham, Alvin Andrews, Arbey Squier; 1853, Absalom Gardner, David B. Needham, Eli Gardner; 1854, Absalom Gardner, David B. Needham, Ferd. L. Burley; 1855, Absalom Gardner, Adams Stewart, Samuel B. Perry; 1856, Absalom Gardner, Nathan Palmer, Warren Shaw; 1857-58, Absalom Gardner, Nathan Palmer, Samuel L. Moulton; 1859, Warren Shaw, Wm. L. Needham, S. V. R. Smith; 1860, Warren Shaw, Friend C. Smith, Warren Needham; 1861, Warren Shaw, S. V. R. Smith, William L. Needham; 1862, Absalom Gardner, Eden D. Shaw, S. V. R. Smith; 1863-64, Absalom Gardner, C. D. Brown, Warren Shaw; 1865, Julius M. Lyon, J. C. Burley, F. C. Smith; 1866, Ferd. C. Burley, C. D. Brown, S. B. Perry; 1867, Ferd. L. Burley, C. D. Brown, J. M. Lyon; 1868-69; Ferd. L. Burley, Warren Needham, David F. Parker; 1870, Ferd. L. Burley, Warren Needham, A. B. Johnson; 1871, J. M. Lyon, Wm. L. Needham, F. L. Coburn; 1872, Absalom Gardner, Warren Needham, F. L. Coburn; 1873-74, Ferd. L. Burley, William L. Needham, F. L. Coburn; 1875, Ferd. L. Burley, Wm. L. Needham, George O. Henry; 1876, F. C. Smith, Geo. O. Henry,

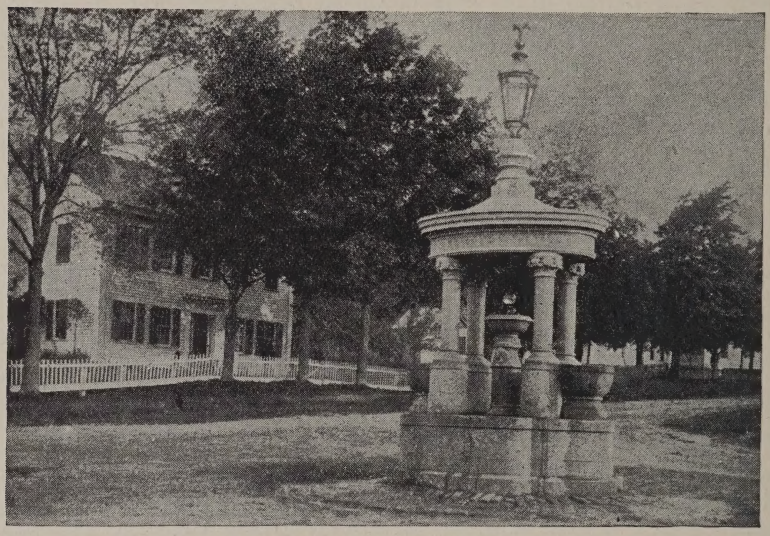
A. B. Johnson; 1877, Frank A. Royce, G. H. Needham, A. B. Johnson; 1878, George H. Needham, J. M. Lyon, A. B. Johnson; 1879, J. M. Lyon, A. B. Johnson, F. S. Gardner; 1880, Warren Shaw, David Shaw, W. L. Needham; 1881, F. L. Burley, F. M. Royce, W. L. Needham; 1882, R. L. Boynton, W. L. Needham, P. W. Moore; 1883, A. B. Johnson, J. M. Lyon, F. A. Royce; 1884, F. A. Royce, A. B. Johnson, Nathan Green; 1885, F. A. Royce, C. C. Smith, J. C. Burley; 1886, F. A. Royce, C. C. Smith, W. Royce; 1887, W. Royce, R. L. Boynton, David Shaw; 1888, J. M. Lyon, F. A. Royce, David Shaw; 1889, J. M. Lyon, LeRoy Squier, H. A. McFarland; 1890, O. P. Royce, LeRoy Squier, H. A. McFarland; 1891-92, O. P. Royce, W. E. Needham, Nathan Green; 1893-95, O. P. Royce, W. E. Needham, W. A. Lyon; 1896, O. P. Royce, J. H. Loudon, J. C. Burley; 1897-99, O. P. Royce, G. M. Stewart, J. H. Loudon; 1900, J. H. Loudon, F. M. Royce, A. A. Hubbard; 1901, O. P. Royce, J. H. Loudon, A. A. Hubbard.

Town Clerks.—Capt. Joseph Blodgett, 1762-63; Humphrey Crane, 1764; Jeremiah Needham, 1765; Joseph Blodgett, 1766-67; Humphrey Crane, 1768; Joseph Blodgett, 1769-74; Joseph Needham, 1775-76; Abner Needham, 1777-80; David Bullen, 1781-84; Abner Needham, 1785-86; Darius Munger, 1787; Abner Needham, 1788-90; Oliver Wales, 1791-1803; Elijah Coddington, 1804-05; James Smith, 1806-7; Jesse Moulton, 1808-14; Wm. W. Thompson, 1815; Alfred Needham, 1816-33; Elijah C. Babcock, 1834; Aaron Shaw, 1835-36; James C. Royce, 1837-39; Leonard B. Wight, 1840-42; Nathan D. Wight, 1843; Absalom Gardner, 1844; Austin L. Rogers, 1845-47; Naham H. Stowell, 1848-50; Ferdinand L. Burley, 1851-54; George H. Needham, 1855; Joel H. Rogers, 1856-59; George S. Rogers, 1860-73; Herbert H. Haradon, 1874-75; George S. Rogers, 1876; Frank L. Smith, 1877; Herbert H. Haradon, 1878; Ozro P. Royce, 1879-88; A. A. Hubbard, 1889; Ozro P. Royce, 1890-1901.

Town Officers, 1901.—Ozro P. Royce, A. A. Hubbard, Joseph A. Loudon, selectmen, overseers of the poor and board of health; Ozro P. Royce, town clerk; B. S. Baker, C. G. Needham, auditors; Willis Chamberlain, treasurer; T. J. Hynes, col-

lector; W. E. Needham, Wm. Peck, W. W. Eager, assessors; LeRoy Squier, C. G. Thompson, constables; Ozro P. Royce, George M. Stewart, Herbert A. McFarland, justices of the peace; Dr. E. F. Ross, Anna Thompson, Mrs. Wm. McKinnon, trustees Wales public library; Willis Chamberlain, librarian.

Wales for many years has been noted for the substantial character of its inhabitants and also for the stability of its institutions and population. Generally speaking, it is an agricultural town, with just enough of industrial enterprise to



The Village Fountain

employ the surplus labor element of the locality. Lumbering for many years has been an established occupation for several of the townsmen. In 1776, when the colonial census was taken, South Brimfield (including what now is Holland) contained 850 inhabitants. The later changes in population, as shown by census statistics, have been as follows: 1790, 606; 1800, 774; 1810, 645; 1820, 683; 1830, 665; 1840, 686; 1850, 711; 1855, 713; 1860, 677; 1865, 696; 1870, 831; 1875, 1,020; 1880, 1,030; 1885, 853; 1890, 700; 1895, 783; 1900, 773.

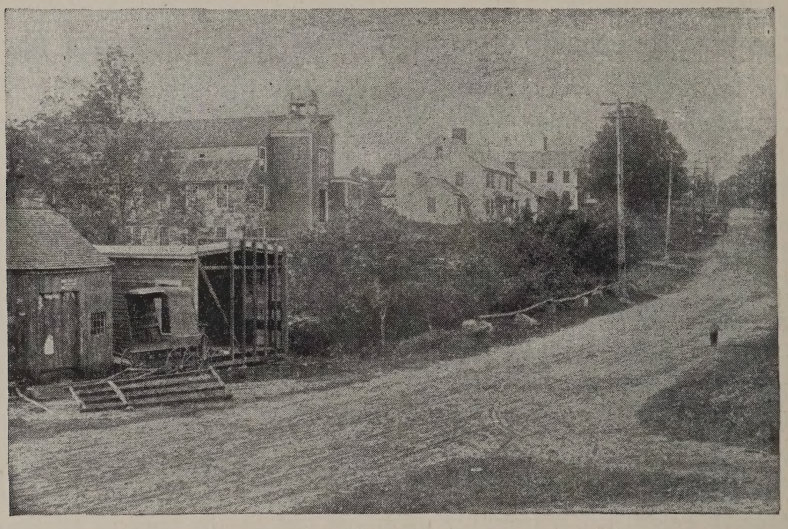
From this it is seen that Wales, unlike many of the outlying towns of the county, attained its greatest population in 1880, a time when other civil divisions in the region were rapidly decreasing in number of inhabitants with a corresponding decline in local interests; but fortunately for Wales, the lands which comprise its 10,000 acres area are of a superior quality and yield well in response to the persevering efforts of the husbandman. Moreover, the people always have been loyal to their town, taking especial interest in maintaining the fertility of the soil and guarding carefully the welfare of their youth. This is known as one of the progressive towns, with fixed and permanent institutions, and notwithstanding the decrease in population of the last twenty years, few of the established interests have been abandoned.

This spirit of loyalty to the town is not of recent origin, but dates back to the days of early settlement, and in subsequent years its manifestations have been frequent. Between 1754 and 1763 a number of the townsmen enlisted under the American flag and took part in the closing wars with France. During the revolution a patriotic spirit was displayed in old South Brimfield, and on the call to arms no town made a more generous response with troops, arms and supplies, also with provision for the payment of bounties to encourage enlistments to the full extent of the town's quota.

Through the assistance of Leon H. Thompson, the writer is able to furnish a reasonably complete list of the men of South Brimfield (Wales) who served during the revolution, viz.: Daniel Giles, Joseph Gardner, Charles Gardner, Amos Green, Aaron Green, Ames Walbridge, Anthony Needham, Stephen Needham, David Needham, Paul Stewart, William Carpenter, Malachi Nichols, Capt. Daniel Winchester, Hezekiah Fisk, Asa Fisk, David Davis, Samuel Davis, Robert Andrews, Ludim Andrews, Ezekiel Willis, Cyrus Munger and Ebenezer Moulton. Othniel Brown, who entered the naval service, was a native of Rhode Island, but lived and died in this town. Isaiah Blood, who enlisted from Charlton, Mass., also is buried here. Nehemiah Needham, a soldier of the French and Indian war, was a private

under Capt. Ebenezer Moulton in the expedition to Crown Point in 1755.

During Shays' rebellion there was much local interest in occurring events, and tradition says that the prevailing discontent was felt in the locality. During the war of 1812-15 public sentiment favored the federal or peace party, and whatever there was of feeling in the town at the time, it was quietly settled in tavern discussions, where the worthies were accustomed to congregate and debate serious questions. In the war of 1861-5



Wales, on the street

the town furnished more than sixty men for the several companies recruited in part in this locality, while a number of Wales enlistments were in Connecticut regiments.

Wales Village.—In accordance with an old custom of our earliest New England ancestors, the first settlers in South Brimfield established their trading center along the principal thoroughfare leading through the town. From the days of pioneership to the present, the village called Wales has comprised the almost continuous row of dwellings, stores and other structures

incident to such municipalities, scattered along the main road leading from Brimfield to Stafford, Connecticut, being more than a mile in length, although the population here has not any time exceeded 400 persons. "The Street" is an interesting locality in the history of the town, although as a business center it did not attract attention until after 1825. In this vicinity the pioneers settled, and here also the first store, tavern and meeting house were established, some of them considerably more than a century ago.

Wales is believed to have been a post station about 1800, and it is said that Oliver Wales was the first postmaster. He was followed by Daniel Green, James C. Royce, Leonard B. Wight, Joel H. Rogers, Absalom Gardner, Philip Snow and Warren Shaw, about in the order mentioned. The first physician was Dr. James Lawrence, who practiced from 1746 to 1778. Then followed Dr. Dudley Wade, 1779-83; Dr. Abel Sherman, 1883-86; Dr. Jeremiah Round, 1881-89; Dr. David Young, 1790, and later a storekeeper; Dr. Ferdinand Lethbridge, 1805-11; Dr. Thaddeus Fairbanks, 1811-15; Dr. Daniel Tiffany, 1812-22; Dr. Aaron Shaw, 1813-45; Dr. John Smith, 1815-67. However, this element of the town's history is treated in another chapter.

Neither record nor tradition gives us any definite information as to the early business interests in Wales, yet it is understood that the people were provided with the necessaries of life within their own town, for the south half of old Brimfield was settled by an independent and self-supporting class of men. It is known that a store and tavern were established here previous to 1795, and while a public house has not been maintained continuously, there has not been a time within the last hundred years when Wales was without at least one good store. Twenty-five years ago the town had four large general stores, but that was when six woolen factories were in full operation, as well as a box shop and a silk mill. At that time, too, Wales had more than 1,000 inhabitants and enjoyed especial prominence as a manufacturing center.

In the early years of the century just passed there was some small attempt at manufacturing, wagons and occasionally car-

riages, farm tools and various articles of wearing apparel, chiefly hats, being the main products. Between 1830 and 1842 the manufacture of boots and shoes was an established industry, the product for the business year of 1836-7 being valued at more than $27,000. For the year ending March 31, 1854, a total of 40,000 pairs of boots and shoes was made in the town, and in the next year the product amounted to more than 33,000 pairs, valued at $27,735. The men engaged in this special manufacture were Jonathan G. Royce, George H. Needham, Dwight W. Ellis, Erasmus D. Shaw and Chauncey D. Brewer. A glance at the early settlement history in another part of this chapter will disclose that several of these once prominent manufacturers were descendants from pioneer stock, and therefore it may be inferred that the boot and shoe industry of former years was originated in the town and was not an importation, although it was the means of a considerable addition to the town's population.

About 1847, at a time when boot and shoemaking was comparatively quiet, Harlan G. Dunham began the manufacture of cotton batting on Mill brook in a building which for several years previously had been occupied for various purposes. In 1855 William P. Osborn started a wicking factory, but not meeting with hoped-for results, Osborn & Needham in 1857 turned the works into a plow handle and farm implement shop. A shingle mill was added in 1858 and a saw mill in 1860. Mr. Osborn having sold his interest in the works, Wm. H. Lane succeeded Mr. Needham in 1863, and in 1865 the plant and power passed into the hands of Elijah Shaw, who perhaps more than any other single person was identified with the industrial history of the town. Shawville was so named in allusion to him.

For many years the town enjoyed especial prominence in the manufacture of cloths of various grades, satinets, doeskins and cassimeres being the leading products. Several of the factories were located in the upper end of the village, Shawville, as best known in local designation. Among these interests were the works of the Shaw Mfg. Co., first started in 1847 and enlarged twice in the course of the next ten years. The once well

known "Dell Mill", the largest building in the town, was erected in 1860-61 by Elijah and Aaron Shaw, and was used for the manufacture of woolen cloths. The building was burned in 1870, and in 1873 a large flouring mill was built on the site. The "Eden Shaw" mill was built at the upper village, near the Dell mill, in 1864-5 by Eden D. and Aaron Shaw, and produced doeskins from 1866 to 1869, and later made cloths of various kinds. In the same locality also the "Heagan" mill was built and put into operation in 1865-6 by Elijah Shaw, and turned out a superior grade of cassimeres. The "Valley mill", also in this vicinity, originally was a saw mill and box factory, and in 1872 was converted into a cloth mill under the proprietorship of Elijah Shaw. Later on the building was leased to Samuel Hodgson.

When the business of cloth manufacture was at its height in the town, about 350 workmen were regularly employed, but when there came the general tendency of manufacturing interests to center in the large cities, the greater industries of Wales gradually declined, and those who had been connected with their operation found employment elsewhere. At the present time Wales has two cloth mills in operation, owned respectively by J. H. Loudon and H. E. Shaw.

Almost a century and one-half ago, in 1752, settler Phineas Durkee started a small tannery and established an industry which was maintained in the town until quite recently. Later proprietors in the same business were Robert Durkee, Robert Andrews, Aaron Winchester, John Sabin and Zeno Farrington, the latter having conducted the tannery longer than any of his predecessors. Zeno Farrington, Jr., started an extensive tannery in 1853, and at times finished as many as 3,000 sides of leather and calf skins each year. Among the other proprietors whose names are to be mentioned in connection with the old-time industries of the town were Bela Tiffany, Oliver Wales and Hiram Watkins, who in 1828 and 1829 erected buildings for the manufacture of woolen cloths; and among those who in later years were directly concerned in the enterprise were R. P. Wales and John W. Bliss. The plant last mentioned was burned in

1837, but was rebuilt two years later by John W. Bliss, Royal and James L. Wales. In 1840 this concern was resolved into the "Wales Manufacturing Company", and satinets were added to the products of the works. In 1865 the mill was sold to the Rogers Bros. (Joel H., LaFayette and Clinton Rogers), who, in turn, sold out to the Shaw Mfg. Co. (the latter having been incorporated in 1848), large producers of cassimeres and doeskin cloths of superior grade. The first mill (built in 1847) operated by the Shaw Mfg. Co. was located near the center of the village.

In the course of time these industries began to lose something of their prestige, and as the tendency toward the large manufacturing centers gradually increased, the local concerns suffered a loss of business. Still, in Wales cassimeres are yet produced by the proprietors whose names have been noted. In addition to these interests the village has a soap and candle factory, of which Boynton & Williams are proprietors, and a saw mill owned by E. L. Needham. The other business interests here may be noted as follows: Frank Town, carriage maker and blacksmith; Herbert A. McFarland, auctioneer; Merrick Converse, boots and shoes; E. & E. Lanphear, notions; Willis Chamberlain & Co., Frederick M. Royce and Ozro P. Royce, general merchants; Peter Gaudette, proprietor Wales hotel; J. C. Burley, insurance agent; E. L. Needham, lumber manufacturer and dealer; E. E. Lanphear, postmaster; Dr. Ellsworth F. Ross, physician and surgeon; John Royce, provision dealer; A. F. Fisher, stoves and tinware; C. G. Thompson, undertaker; George Dimmick, proprietor of stage line; E. Belding, Peter Gaudette, W. G. Parker, stable keepers.

Churches.—The ecclesiastical history of Wales during the last century has been interesting, and the town has been the abiding place of as many denominations as any other similar civil division of the county can boast; yet among the several societies organized from time to time only two can show an unbroken record of continued, healthful existence.

In the early history of the town the settlers appear to have comprised both Congregationalists and Baptists, the latter per-

haps prevailing in point of numbers. The mother church naturally was Congregational and was established in Brimfield, and when the town was divided the district set off organized its own church. In 1763 the town voted to build a meeting house, and also voted to hire Ezra Reave to preach to the settlers. But it appears that soon after this time certain disturbances entered into the councils of the society and resulted in the formation of the East and West parishes. The meeting house itself was partially completed, but later on after the parish division it was torn down and removed from the town. This was virtually the end of the Congregational church in Wales, and those of the settlers who preferred that denomination joined with the society in the East parish. In 1819 an effort was made to re-establish the church, but the attempt was only partially successful.

The devout Baptist worshippers of this part of old Brimfield organized themselves into a society and built a meeting house about 1760. Originally these settlers were Congregationalists, but separated from the mother church and styled themselves Anabaptists as early as 1734. They gained strength and in 1736 formed their society, with Ebenezer Moulton as spiritual guide and minister. Settlers Joseph Hovey and Benjamin Johnson were the first deacons. Soon after this dissentions worked adversely and caused a division in the church, but in 1771 a reorganization was effected and the society became established on a permanent basis. In 1760 a meeting house was erected and was occupied until 1802, when it was removed and gave way to a larger union edifice, the latter provided for occupancy by the Baptists, Universalists and Congregationalists. In 1773 Elder Elijah Coddington—"Father" Coddington—was installed as pastor and continued in that relation fifty-three years. Following him the early pastors in succession were Revs. Joshua Eveleth, 1826-29; John M. Hunt, 1829-30; Tubal Wakefield, 1834-36; George Mixter, 1836-42; Warren Cooper, 1842-43; Volney Church, 1843-48; and in later years Samuel R. Allard, Henry H. Hazelton, Sylvester Barrows, Asa A. Robinson, William S. Phillips, Moses Curtis, Justin Aldrich, Lyman Partridge, Edwin J. Stevens, Charles A. Cook, John Shepardson and others

of still more recent date. The present pastor is Rev. Walter Persey, under whose care the church is in a healthful condition, with a present membership of nearly 150 persons.

Universalism in Wales dates almost from the years of early settlement, although it was not until about 1780 that the first society was formed in the town. This church never has been strong in the locality, and the frequent attempts to establish a permanent organization have not met with marked success. Soon after 1820 an earnest attempt was made to found a Christian society and church in Wales, but without permanent results. A society of Adventists was informally organized soon after

The street near the Methodist Church

1840, but as a religious body it attracted little attention among the townspeople.

Methodism in Wales dates its history from the year 1830, when the first society of that church was formed here, and was placed under the pastoral care of Rev. Horace Moulton. From that time the church has been progressive and has extended its influence and work throughout the region. The house of worship was built in 1832 and has been occasionally repaired and remodeled. The present pastor is Rev. George L. Camp.

The first burial ground in what now is Wales was laid out in pursuance of a vote of the town of Brimfield, September 5,

1732, and included one and one-half acres of land on the southeast side of the South pond. The second burial ground, located north of the pond, was donated to the town April 2, 1792, by Anthony Needham. In 1813 more land was added to the plot by the town, and for more than half a century this was the recognized cemetery of the region. The "New Burying Ground" was laid out in 1841. In addition to these cemetery tracts mention may be made of that located on Shaw hill, in the upper part of the village, which was donated to the public by Julius M. Lyon, and of the Walker burial plot in the southwest part of the town.

Schools.—As early as 1766 the town made provision for the maintenance of a school and the establishment of a district in charge of a prudential committee, and in 1772 a grammar school was started in compliance with the colonial laws. In 1799 the town was divided into four districts, which number has been maintained for more than a century. Including the grammar school, Wales now has six schools, and for their support raises annually by tax more than $1,500. The town receives from the public school fund about $560 yearly, while the total expense of maintenance is about $1,700. The school census shows a total of 155 children of school age in the town, for whose instruction six teachers are employed.

The town school committee comprises H. A. McFarland, chairman; J. H. Loudon and H. E. Shaw; superintendent, Albert Robinson; principal of the grammar school, William T. Jack.

During the period of its history Wales has produced many strong, substantial and influential men, the benefits of whose life work have been felt beyond the borders of the town itself. In this honorable list let us place the names of those who are no longer living but whose records are still proudly referred to in local annals. We refer to such men as the late Absalom Gardner, Royal P. Wales, Dr. John Smith, Luther Parker, J. H. Rogers, J. G. Royce, J. C. Royce, Joel Rogers, Elijah Shaw, J. M. Lyon, Warren Shaw, F. L. Burley, Jonathan Needham and Adam Stewart. This list might be enlarged, but the above will suffice. And if asked who are the leading men of the town to-

day, the answer would be: H. E. Shaw, Joseph H. Loudon, A. A. Hubbard, G. S. Rogers, Willis Chamberlain, F. M. Royce, E. L. Needham, J. C. Burley, H. A. McFarland, W. E. Needham, Dr. E. L. Ross, T. J. Hynes, G. M. Stewart, W. W. Eager, O. P. Royce, and perhaps a few names might be added to this list.

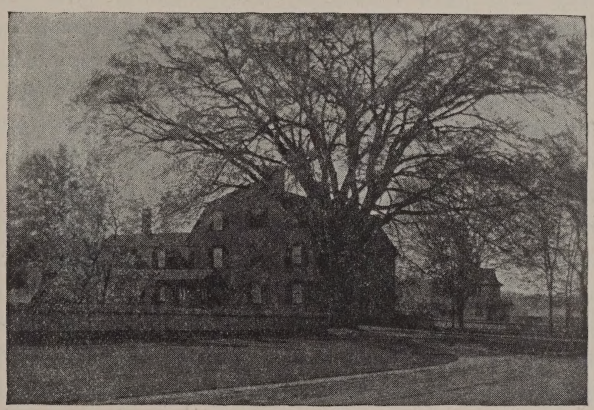
CHAPTER XVII

THE CITY OF CHICOPEE

The geographical position of the city of Chicopee is near the center of the northern line of Hampden county. Its territory is bounded on the north by the towns of South Hadley and Granby in the county of Hampshire, east by the town of Ludlow, Hampden county, south by the city of Springfield, and west by the town of West Springfield and the city of Holyoke, from which it is separated by the Connecticut river. The territorial area amounts to 25.7 square miles, or about 16,000 acres, and the surface is either nearly level or slightly rolling. In some sections the bluffs overlooking the streams rise to the dignity of low ranges of hills. The Chicopee river, which enters near the southeastern angle, divides the territory into two unequal portions, running diagonally to the Connecticut river, into which it empties. In its passage through the city limits this river has a fall of seventy feet, furnishing valuable power, which has been utilized at Chicopee Falls and Chicopee Center for the important manufacturing industries which have been the principal factors in the city's development.

Originally the territory now comprising the city of Chicopee formed a part of the town of Springfield, and so continued under the names of Cabot or Cabotville, Chicopee Falls or Factory Village, and Chicopee Street, until created a separate town by act of the Massachusetts legislature in 1848. Settlements began on the Chicopee river, however, within a very few years after the

settlement of Springfield proper, probably not later than the year 1640. The first of the settlers were probably Henry Chapin and his brother Japhet, sons of Deacon Samuel Chapin, who came to Springfield in 1642, and whose statue by St. Gaudens stands in one of the parks in that city. The first contract for a deed of land in this territory was executed March 9, 1659, by John Pynchon of Springfield, who covenanted to convey "to Henry Chapin 200 acres of land on ye Chickkuppy river, to run fro ye hills on ye east side to the Great river (Connecticut) on ye west, and on the south it is to be bounded by and join to the Chickkuppy river,—only one twenty-five acres, or thirty, being



The Old Chapin Homestead, Chicopee Street

by Chickkuppy river, about the place which shall be judged best for a warehouse, is to be taken out and excepted out of the parcel; yet so as to be 200 acres is to be made up there together. Also, Henry is to have half of ye upper Island, which is to be as equally divided as can be, and also he is to have five acres of mowable meadow at the lower end of the mixmeadow." For this sizable tract of land the grantee was to make payment in wheat, in four annual installments, at the current prices, the amount of the purchase price being twenty pounds sterling. The land thus conveyed seems to have comprised a considerable portion of what has been and still is known as Chicopee Street, but

Mr. Chapin built his house on the south side of the river—perhaps for the sake of more convenience in reaching the strong houses at Springfield in case of Indian troubles.

In fact, the natives had by this time become troublesome, and more or less open hostilities existed for many years. About the same time a settlement was made at Skipmuck, some distance above Chicopee Falls, where a few families located, but were often obliged to take refuge in the old fort at Springfield. During this period of general peril a part of Springfield was burned, and there were massacres and battles further up the Connecticut river; but the settlers along the Chicopee did not suffer seriously, though the men were constantly under arms, even in making their way through the wilderness to attend public worship, while the women were also trained in the use of weapons. The comparative immunity of these isolated families is the more notable from the fact that the region bordering the Chicopee river had been a favorite resort for the red men, as is attested by the discovery of Indian relics there within comparatively recent years.

Japhet Chapin settled further to the north, near the Willimansett end of Chicopee Street, where a large tract of land had been secured by his father, his coming to the locality being a little later than that of his brother. The two brothers became the fathers of eight sons, who lived to an average of eighty years, and these eight in turn were the fathers of eighty-seven children, most of whom were sons, so that the Chapin family became very numerous and influential in the affairs of this portion of Springfield. Many of their descendants are still residents of Chicopee, while others have carried the name with high honor to various portions of the country.

Cultivation of the land on the south side of Chicopee river, near the junction of that stream with the Connecticut, is said to have begun as early as 1645, fourteen years previous to the sale of land to Henry Chapin, but no highway connecting the section with Springfield appears to have been established until 1665. In January of that year Nathaniel Ely and Rowland Thomas, who had secured a grant of land on the south side of the Chicopee river the previous summer, were appointed to lay out a suitable

highway leading from a practicable ford of the Chicopee river to Springfield, and thus giving connection with the settlers on the north side of the river. Their report, which was accepted by the Springfield selectmen February 5, 1665, thus described the route of their choice: "We do conceive that the common way over Chiccupee river should go above the Islands about 20 rod, where the Indians common wading place was formerly, or a little higher, and so from thence to run up the river on this side ye river about 20 rod or more, and then to turn off in the vacant ground betwixt Rowland Thomas and Nathal Ely's land into the Pine Plain, and so to the town. This highway to be in breadth from Chicupee river to the brow of the hill, which is 7 or 8 rod, and where it turns off from the river, there to be 20 rod broad." "The Indians' common wading place" here mentioned was near the site of the present mills of the Dwight Manufacturing company, and the route of the "highway" thus laid out has remained practically unchanged to the present day.

At the mouth of the Chicopee river and in that vicinity fish were abundant, especially shad and salmon in their season, and tradition preserves some remarkable "fish stories," with a stronger presumption of foundation on fact than usually attaches to similar narratives. It is certain that the rivers furnished the early settlers of the entire Connecticut valley with a generous and important portion of their food supply. From the early records it appears, however, that the fishing privileges were regarded as town rights, and were granted in the form of permits or licenses to the residents. But it is not probable that heavy penalties were attached to those who indulged without the formality of a license. In the early part of the eighteenth century fish were still so abundant and cheap that at the river salmon were sold for six pence each, and shad for one-half a penny.

The original deeds and grants of land were sometimes decidedly indefinite as to "metes and bounds," but they were ratified by the town, either in town meeting, by action of the selectmen, or of a committee especially appointed for the purpose, so that very few disputes required settlement by the courts.

Originally the land had been bought from the Indians in a manner and at a price entirely satisfactory to them, so that peace existed until the outbreak of King Philip's war. Even then the only serious trouble occurred at Skipmuck, where two soldiers, Aaron Parsons and Berijah Hubbard, were killed, as was also one child. A few others were wounded and one or two persons were made prisoners.

The settlement of what is now the village of Willimansett did not begin until 1720, when a house was built there by Landlord Abel Chapin of Chicopee Street. Many years passed before any further settlements were made there, but by the time of the revolution houses had been built by Collins Brown, Eleazer Wright, Gillis Frink and Rev. John Pendleton, a Baptist minister. After the independence of the colonies had been secured other houses were built from time to time, and gradually the village grew up.

The military record of Chicopee previous to the war of the rebellion is embodied in that of the town of Springfield, but there is abundant evidence that in all the trials through which the colonies passed in the early wars, and until the independence of the colonies had been secured, the sons of Chicopee bore well and honorably their part. Unfortunately, the full list of those who served in the various wars is not available. In the French and Indian war the several villages of the present city furnished quite a number of officers and enlisted men, including Captain (afterward Colonel) Abel Chapin, Ensign Moses Chapin, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Lake George in 1757; Edward Chapin, clerk of Captain Hitchcock's company, and Caleb Chapin, who was killed at Lake George. All of these were from Chicopee Street. The same locality may also claim credit for the brave Captain Elisha Chapin, who shortly before this time removed from Chicopee Street to the northwestern portion of the state. In 1754 he was commanding officer of Fort Massachusetts, on the Hoosac river, and July 17, 1756, while working in the fields, was captured by the Indians, taken near to the fort, and tortured to death in the sight of his family, who had sought the protection of the fort, which the savages had vainly attacked.

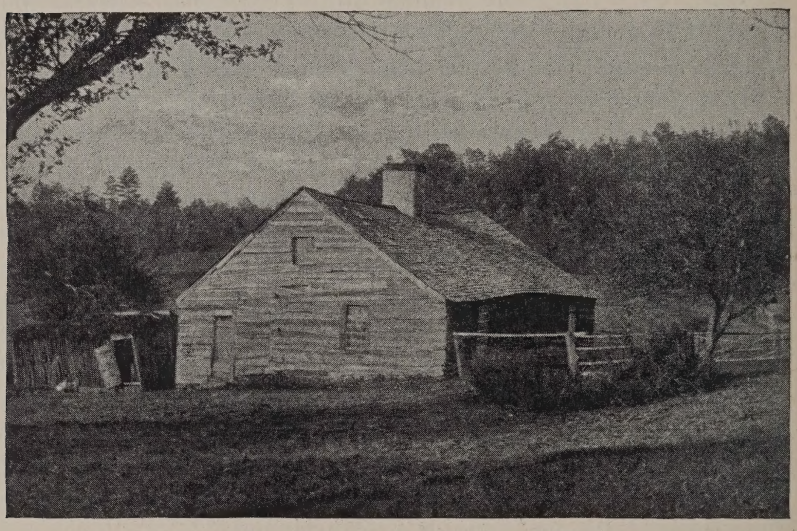
When the struggle of the colonies with the mother country broke out at Lexington, messengers were sent to the settlements on the Connecticut for soldiers, and sixty-two men from Springfield responded on the moment, of whom Chicopee furnished Jacob Chapin, Israel Chapin, Phinehas Chapin, Eleazar Chapin, Jr., Solomon Chapin, Joseph Chapin, Jr., Gad Horton, John Stedman, and Phinehas Stedman. In a company which marched to Ticonderoga later in the war under Captain Abel Chapin were Moses Bliss, Benoni Chapin, Ezekiel Chapin, Zerah Chapin, Ebenezer Burbank, Eleazar Wright, Thomas Frink, and Collins Brown. In a regiment commanded by Colonel Woodbridge, Captain Ephraim Chapin led a company, in which were Paul Chapin, Japhet Chapin, Seth Chapin, David Chapin, George Chapin, Jacob Chapin, John Frink and Ebenezer Jones.

The terrible depression following the close of the revolutionary war brought on the Shays rebellion, which for a time threatened serious trouble for the government of Massachusetts, though happily but little blood was shed and no serious results followed, the insurgents realizing the rashness and hopelessness of their position, and scattering to their homes after the first passage of arms at Springfield. During the brief life of the insurrection, Chicopee was headquarters for one company of the rebellious force, who, in lieu of barracks, took possession of the covered bridge which had been built across the Chicopee river some nine years before. Learning of the defeat of their comrades on Armory hill in Springfield, they dispersed in all directions without the formality of a "muster out."

For many years Chicopee Street remained the most important of the villages. Its lands were the most desirable for farming purposes, its residents were prosperous, and its general characteristics were attractive. There were located the village tavern, stores and post-office, with such shops and small manufactories as naturally developed to meet the needs of the people. But this prestige gradually gave way as the fine water powers on the Chicopee river were utilized, and the villages of Cabotville (Chicopee) and Chicopee Factory (Chicopee Falls) increased in population and in social and commercial importance. With

this growth there very naturally came the desire for independent government, which strengthened as the years went by and the material interests of the Chicopee end of the town became larger and more prosperous, and in a measure less directly connected with those of Springfield proper.

By 1845 the total population of Springfield had grown to some 18,000, nearly 8,000 of whom belonged to the Chicopee section. The Chicopeeans were anxious for a separate town government—the southern portion of the town desired a city charter with the territorial limits unbroken. Neither faction



Historic House in "Johnny Cake Hollow," Chicopee Falls

was able to secure its wishes through the medium of the town meeting, and much bitterness of feeling was the result. The question of division was one of the important articles in the town meeting of 1848, and was decided in the negative by a vote of about three to two—representing closely the voting strength of the two sections. But the matter was taken up by the legislature, and an act incorporating the town was passed on the 25th of April of that year. The boundary line between the two towns was thus described in the act of incorporation:

Beginning at a stone monument by two oak trees standing together on the bank of Connecticut river near to and northerly of the house of Edwin Spooner, and running thence westerly by a line at right angles with the river to the easterly line of West Springfield, thence returning to said stone monument and running thence northeasterly a straight line to a stone monument standing on the southerly bank of Chicopee river at or near the westerly extremity of "Birchem Bend" of said river so called, thence the same course to the thread of said Chicopee river, and thence easterly by the thread of said river to a point opposite the southeast corner of the town of Ludlow, and thence to the said corner of Ludlow.

The new town government was organized at a meeting held at Cabot hall in Chicopee May 17, 1848, and this list of officers was chosen:

Selectmen, Sylvanus Adams, Harmon Rowley, Ezekiel Blake, Amos W. Stockwell, Adolphus G. Parker; assessors, Sylvester Allen, Amaziah Bullens, Harmon Rowley; school committee, Rev. Jonah G. Warren, Rev. Eli B. Clark, Rev. Robert Kellen; overseers of the poor, Clark Albro, Andrew Hubbard, Phineas Stedman; surveyors of highways, Jacob P. Brown, Sidney Chapin, Joseph B. McCune; pound keeper, Almon Nelson; constables, Sylvester Churchill, William Wheeler, Benjamin F. Willard, William L. Bemis, John C. Bartlett, Simeon B. Fairbank, George Mosman, Amory Doolittle, Alfred Warriner, Luther Pierce, Andrew Hubbard, William R. Kentfield; measurers of wood and bark, Madison E. Willey, Benjamin E. Ballard, Sylvester Allen, Clossen Pendleton, Phineas Stedman, Emilus E. Albro, George S. Taylor, John E. Carpenter, Andrew Hubbard, Varnum N. Taylor, Otis Chapman, Elijah P. Kimball, Nathaniel Cutler, Amaziah Bullens; sealers of leather, Adolphus G. Parker, Joseph W. Hitchcock, Andrew Hubbard; board of health, Clark Albro, Andrew Hubbard, Phineas Stedman, Dr. John R. Wilbur, Dr. Daniel K. Pearson; fence viewers, Lysander Chapin, Caleb S. Chapin, Edward S. Robinson, Orrin Fuller, Lyman Van Horn, Norman Day; surveyors of lumber, Veranus Chapin, Benjamin Parsons, Sylvester Allen, Joseph Clough,

Richard Johnson, Francis Moore, Norman Chapin; sealer of weights and measures, William G. Bliss; field drivers, Oliver F. Pinney, Varnum N. Taylor, Samuel P. Clough, Frederick A. Barber, Ebenezer Bartlett, Levi Chapin, Titus Chapin, Benning Leavitt, James Wells, Ezra H. Corning, Benjamin B. Belcher, Royal Wyatt, Abel Chapin, Luke W. Kimball, Jonathan C. Bowker, Henry Moore, Aloristan Wait, Robinson Brock; tithingmen, Charles P. Collins, Horatio Colton, Levi C. Skeele, Alexander H. Childs, Sylvanus Adams, James Kervin, Patrick Gorman, Luther Streeter, Davis Dunham, David M. Butterfield, Cyrus Spaulding, Benjamin H. Ellis, Lemuel H. Brigham, Cyril A. Southworth, James L. Sikes, Lucius E. Ladd, William McDermott, Ralph White, Josiah Osgood, Lester Dickinson, William Blake, Harvey Robinson; committee on school district boundaries, John Wells, Edward Renney, Phineas Stedman.

The act of incorporation provided for the distribution of the surplus revenue between Chicopee and Springfield in the proportion of 37 per cent to the former and 63 per cent to the mother town, which would indicate the comparative taxable valuation of the two sections. The population, however, was more evenly divided, the national census of 1850 showing 8,291 inhabitants in Chicopee, against 11,766 in Springfield. In 1860 —doubtless owing to the hard times of 1857, which seriously affected manufacturing interests—the census figures for Chicopee fell to 7,261; but in 1870—notwithstanding the stress of the civil war—they had increased to 9,607, and the subsequent reports have been as follows: 1880, 11,286; 1890, 14,050; 1900, 19,167. The assessed valuation of the city at the latter date was approximately $10,000,000. Prior to 1890 the census reports had shown a population entitling to a city charter, and during that year the necessary steps were taken for changing the form of government. Elections were held in December, and on January 1, 1891, the city was duly inaugurated, with George S. Taylor as the first mayor. Until 1897 the form of government closely resembled that of Springfield, consisting of a board of aldermen comprising one member from each of the seven wards of the city, and a common council of two members from each ward. In

1897 a new charter was adopted, which, in connection with some minor changes, vested the legislative power in a single body of seventeen aldermen—one from each ward and ten "at large," five of whom are elected annually for two years. The incumbents of the principal offices, from the creation of the town to the present time, under both forms of government, have been as follows:

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Selectmen.—1848, Sylvanus Adams, Harmon Rowley, Ezekiel Blake, Amos W. Stockwell, Adolphus G. Parker; 1849, Sylvanus Adams, Orange Chapin, Bildad B. Belcher, Ezekiel Blake, John Wells; 1850, John Wells, Nathaniel Cutler, Giles S. Chapin, Bildad B. Belcher, Lucius E. Ladd; 1851, Charles R. Ladd, Giles S. Chapin, George S. Taylor; 1852, Charles R. Ladd, George S. Taylor, Abner B. Abbey, John Herrick, Marshall Pease; 1853, George S. Taylor, Benning Leavitt, Abner B. Abbey, John Herrick, Marshall Pease; 1854, Nathaniel Cutler, Benning Leavitt, Timothy W. Carter, Austin Chapin, John H. Smith; 1855, Titus Chapin, John E. Marsh, Caleb S. Chapin, William E. West; 1856, Otis Chapman, Andrew Hubbard, David F. Randall, John A. Denison; 1857, Otis Chapman, Benning Leavitt, Sidney Chapin, Andrew Hubbard, William H. H. Conner; 1858, Otis Chapman, Giles S. Chapin, John E. Marsh, Thomas A. Denison, J. Henry Churchill; 1859, Otis Chapman, John E. Marsh, Thomas A. Denison, J. Henry Churchill; 1860, Otis Chapman, J. Henry Churchill, Theodore Williams, Lucas B. Chapin, Thomas A. Denison; 1861, Otis Chapman, Lucas B. Chapin, Daniel Knapp, William Thayer, Silas Mosman; 1862, Otis Chapman, Lucas B. Chapin, Daniel Knapp, William Thayer, Silas Mosman; 1863, Otis Chapman, Lucas B. Chapin, Daniel Knapp, Edgar T. Paige, Silas Mosman; 1864, Sylvester Adams, Phineas Cadwell, William R. Kentfield, Henry S. Herrick, George H. Knapp; 1865, George H. Knapp, Henry S. Herrick, Russell S. Furney, Simon G. Southworth, Charles S. Stiles; 1866, William R. Kentfield, Russell S. Furney, Simon G. Southworth, Milo A. Taylor, Benjamin H. Stedman; 1867, William R. Kentfield, Milo A. Taylor, Simon G. Southworth,

Benjamin H. Stedman, Bailey West; 1868, William R. Kentfield, Milo A. Taylor, Simon G. Southworth, Benjamin H. Stedman, Bailey West; 1869, William R. Kentfield, Simon G. Southworth, Josiah B. Fuller, William Blake, Marshall Pease; 1870, Thomas A. Denison, Josiah B. Fuller, Marshall Pease, Edgar T. Paige, James E. Taylor; 1871, Josiah B. Fuller, Marshall Pease, Edgar T. Paige, Erasmus Stebbins, John R. Wilbur; 1872, Josiah B. Fuller, Marshall Pease, Edgar T. Paige, John R. Wilbur, Henry H. Harris; 1873, C. M. Kendall, Marshall Pease, S. D. Stoddard, John R. Wilbur, Henry H. Harris; 1874, C. M. Kendall, Marshall Pease, S. D. Stoddard, John R. Wilbur, Patrick Rourke; 1875, C. M. Kendall, John R. Wilbur, Giles S. Chapin, George M. Morton, Patrick Rourke; 1876, John R. Wilbur, Giles S. Chapin, George M. Morton, Patrick Rourke, Warren S. Bragg; 1877, John R. Wilbur, Edgar T. Paige, Patrick Rourke, Warren S. Bragg, William White; 1878, William R. Kentfield, Silas Mosman, Edgar T. Paige, Terrence Hogan, William White; 1879, Silas Mosman, George M. Morton, Terrence Hogan, William White, Norris R. Wood; 1880, Silas Mosman, Michael Dunn, Terrence Hogan, William White, Norris R. Wood; 1881, Silas Mosman, Jonathan R. Whittemore, Terrence Hogan, Amos W. Page, Charles E. Crehore; 1882, Terrence Hogan, Simeon A. Jacobs, Norris R. Wood, Amos W. Page, Charles E. Crehore; 1883, Amos W. Page, Simeon A. Jacobs, Norris R. Wood, Patrick Rourke, Charles E. Crehore; 1884, Amos W. Page, James J. Regan, George W. Gibson, Frank H. Morton, Charles E. Crehore; 1885, Emerson Gaylord, George W. Gibson, Amos W. Page, Dennis Murphy, Morris R. Wood; 1886, Emerson Gaylord, George W. Gibson, Nelson Whittier, Locero J. Gibbs, Norris R. Wood; 1887, Emerson Gaylord, George W. Gibson, Charles A. Bryant, Locero J. Gibbs, Daniel Dunn; 1888, Emerson Gaylord, George W. Gibson, Charles A. Bryant, George A. Edgerton, Norris R. Wood; 1889, Emerson Gaylord, Norris R. Wood, George W. Gibson, William White, Ansel F. Wildes; 1890, Emerson Gaylord, Norris R. Wood, George W. Gibson, George D. Eldredge, Ansel F. Wildes.

Town Clerk and Treasurer.—William L. Bemis, 1848-54;

Jonathan R. Childs, 1854-6; Moses W. Chapin, 1856-7; Lester Dickinson, 1857-82; John D. White, 1882-90.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Mayors.—George S. Taylor, 1891; William W. McClench, 1892; Henry H. Harris, 1893; William M. E. Mellen, 1894; Andrew Gale, 1895; Alexander Grant, 1896; George D. Eldridge, 1897-8; Dennis Murphy, 1899-1900; James H. Loomis, 1901.

City Clerk and Treasurer.—John D. White, 1891-1901.

Aldermen.—1891—Ward 1, William M. E. Mellen; 2, Frederick B. Doten; 3, Irving H. Elmer (president); 4, Frank H. Morton; 5, William O. Kentfield; 6, Henry F. Moriarty; 7, Marshall J. Bannister. 1892—Ward 1, William M. E. Mellen (president); 2, Frederick B. Doten; 3, Irving H. Elmer; 4, George E. Carter; 5, Andrew Gale; 6, Henry F. Moriarty; 7, Marshall J. Bannister. 1893—Ward 1, Michael C. Collins; 2, Alexander Grant; 3, Irving H. Elmer; 4, Justin P. Woodworth; 5, Andrew Gale (president); 6, Peter C. Garrity; 7, E. Ashwell Bardwell. 1894—Ward 1, Edward A. Rourke; 2, Charles A. Wilson; 3, Charles M. Bixby; 4, Lorenzo D. Sanborn (president); 5, George W. D. Lyon; 6, Thomas J. Bowen; 7, Robert E. Alben. 1895—Ward 1, John J. Hogan; 2, Fred M. Gilbert; 3, Charles M. Bixby; 4, Lorenzo D. Sanborn (president); 5, George W. D. Lyon; 6, Thomas J. Dillon; 7, Edward S. Day. 1896—Ward 1, John J. Hogan; 2, Fred M. Gilbert (president); 3, Frank P. Ludwig; 4, Francis M. Bennitt; 5, Charles A. Bogardus; 6, Thomas J. Dillon; 7, Edward S. Day. 1897—Ward 1, John J. Hogan (president); 2, Zachary T. Damon; 3, Alfred L. Chapin; 4, Luther White; 5, Charles A. Bogardus; 6, Thomas J. Dillon; 7, Edward S. Day. 1898—Ward 1, Edward O'Connell; 2, Clarence J. Wetsel; 3, Edward A. White; 4, Woodman S. Page; 5, Eugene F. Russell; 6, James A. O'Rourke; 7, Jasper S. Harris; at large, Frank X. Deroin, Omer Guimond, Amos O. Kinney, William F. O'Neil, James O. Stone, Patrick J. Griffin, Richard F. Riley, Wilfred St. Amour, Albert E. Taylor, Luther White (president). 1899—Ward 1, Edward O'Connell; 2, Clarence J. Wetsel; 3, Edward A. White; 4, Oliver E. Smith;

5, Winfield S. Davis; 6, James A. O'Rourke; 7, Edward Breck; at large, Frank X. Deroin, Omer Guimond, Amos O. Kinney, William F. O'Neil, James O. Stone, Patrick J. Griffin, Charles F. McDevitt, Locero J. Gibbs, Albert E. Taylor, Luther White (president). 1900—Ward 1, Michael F. Walsh; 2, Amos O. Kinney; 3, Frank L. Simpson; 4, Duffield Miles; 5, Frank E. Smith; 6, Michael J. Dillon; 7, Frank A. Rivers; at large, Frank X. Deroin, Omer Guimond, Fred M. Gilbert, James F. O'Brien, Charles I. Scripture, Patrick J. Griffin, Charles F. McDevitt, Locero J. Gibbs, Albert E. Taylor, Luther White (president). 1901—Ward 1, Michael F. Walsh; 2, Charles R. Price; 3, Frank L. Simpson; 4, Charles J. Seaver; 5, Frank E. Smith; 6, Michael J. Dillon; 7, Frank A. Rivers; at large, Frank X. Deroin, Omer Guimond, Fred M. Gilbert, James F. O'Brien, Charles I. Scripture, Frank O. Cook, John J. Reddy, Locero J. Gibbs (president), Peter C. Garrity, Adolph Nantais.

Common Council.—1891—Ward 1, Michael C. Collins, Patrick F. Cronin; 2, Charles B. Wells, Chester H. Ballard (president); 3, James C. Buckley, Henry S. Herrick; 4, George E. Carter, Henry H. Harris; 5, George W. D. Lyon, H. Smith Newell; 6, John M. Ash, John J. Whalen; 7, Jasper S. Harris, Herbert B. Burnham. 1892—Ward 1, Michael C. Collins, Patrick F. Cronin; 2, William D. Manchester, Chester H. Ballard (president); 3, James C. Buckley, William F. Hall; 4, Lorenzo D. Sanborn, Henry H. Harris; 5, Fred L. Hinkley, H. Smith Newell; 6, John M. Ash, John J. Whalen; 7, Hiram J. Young, Herbert B. Burnham. 1893—Ward 1, Edward O'Connell, Dennis E. Sullivan; 2, William P. Hadley, Charles Wilson; 3, Abijah Hastings, Henry Lilley; 4, Lorenzo D. Sanborn (president), Luther White; 5, Fred L. Hinkley, William H. Hamilton; 6 ,William H. Trumbull, Patrick Welch; 7, Edward Breck, James O. Stone. 1894—Ward 1, Edward O'Connell, Dennis E. Sullivan; 2, William P. Hadley, Fred M. Gilbert; 3, Abijah Hastings, Alfred L. Chapin; 4, Merrick L. Fuller, Luther White (president); 5, J. Napoleon L'Amoureux, Eugene F. Russell; 6, Eugene H. McCarthy, John T. Moriarty; 7, Nathan W. Loveland, David McKay. 1895—Ward 1, Michael J. Foley, Dennis E.

Sullivan; 2, Zachary T. Damon, John H. Gregg; 3, Frank P. Ludwig, Abijah Hastings; 4, Albert E. Taylor, Luther White (president); 5, J. Napoleon L'Amoureux, Zebina E. Leonard; 6, Daniel J. Driscoll, Eugene H. McCarthy; 7, Samuel Beaulieu, Eugene Legare. 1896—Ward 1, Michael J. McLane, Eugene A. Sullivan; 2, Zachary T. Damon, John H. Gregg; 3, George J. Morse, Abijah Hastings; 4, Woodman S. Page, Luther White (president); 5, H. Gordon Forbes, Leon Petit, Jr.; 6, Daniel J. Driscoll, James A. O'Rourke; 7, William R. Weaver, Nathan W. Loveland. 1897—Ward 1, Cornelius J. O'Brien, Edward O. Wood; 2, Herbert S. Martin, Clarence J. Wetsel; 3, Abijah Hastings, George J. Morse; 4, Frederick W. Heathcote, Worden S. Page (president); 5, Leon Petit, Jr., Albert E. Taylor; 6, Thomas F. Mahoney, James A. O'Rourke; 7, Alexander Finlayson, William R. Weaver.

Assessors.—1891-6, Dwight L. Shaw, James Flint, Patrick Rourke; 1897-9, James Flint, Patrick Rourke, Paschal J. Newell; 1900, James Flint, Patrick Rourke, Louis Beauregard; 1901, Patrick J. Enright, Patrick Rourke, Louis Beauregard.

Overseers of Poor.—1891-2, Norris R. Wood, Dennis Murphy, William F. Smith; 1893, E. Ashley Bardwell, Dennis Murphy, Wilbur F. Smith; 1894-5, Norris R. Wood, Dennis Murphy, Wilbur F. Smith; 1896, James Flint, Dennis Murphy, Wilbur F. Smith; 1897-8, Wilbur F. Smith, Dennis Murphy, Lorenzo D. Sanborn; 1899, Dwight M. Cook, Wilbur F. Smith, Jeremiah Kirby; 1900-1901, Wilbur F. Smith, Dwight M. Cook, Charles J. O'Brien.

City Physician.—1891, Francis F. Parker; 1892-3, Charles H. Prindle; 1894, Michael H. Lynch; 1895, Frank X. Deroin; 1896, Samuel E. Fletcher; 1897, H. Gordon Forbes.

City Engineer.—1891-1901, Frank P. Cobb.

City Solicitor.—1892, George M. Stearns; 1893-1901, Loranus E. Hitchcock.

Chief of Police.—1891-3, John E. Conner; 1894, George McQueen; 1895, William Blake; 1896-7, John E. Conner; 1898 (title changed to Marshal of Police), John E. Conner; 1899, John J. Hogan; 1900, Richard F. Riley; 1901, Charles F. Kendall.

Superintendent of Streets.—1891-2, Edward W. O'Brien; 1893-6, Charles E. Crehore; 1897-8, Maurice Kennedy; 1899-1900, Edward W. O'Brien; 1901, Maurice Kennedy.

License Commissioners.—1896-7, Fred L. Hinkley, Dennis G. Canty, Henry H. Harris; 1898-9, James E. Higgins, Dennis Canty, Henry H. Harris; 1900, Frederick J. Chapin, Frederick M. Nichols, Eugene M. Sullivan; 1901, Frederick J. Chapin, Patrick P. Murphy, Joseph T. Lodge.

The four years of civil war from 1861 to 1865 severely tested the resources and patriotism of the town, but neither was found wanting. The population of Chicopee at that time was something under 8,000, and the military quota was small in proportion, owing to the large number of women employed in the cotton mills and similar manufacturing industries. But the town heroically responded to every call, and when recruiting stopped in 1865 had furnished forty-eight more men than were due as its quota under all the calls which had been made. The quality of its soldiers was excellent, showing that the martial spirit of the fathers, which had helped in former days to make the enviable record of Springfield, dwelt strong in the hearts of the sons. In material ways the devotion of the people was even more strikingly shown. Generous contributions were made for the assistance of sick, wounded and needy soldiers, and at the close of the war a fund of some $10,000 was still on hand for this most noble charity. By wise forethought this surplus was formed into a fund, the income of which might be applied to the relief of needy veterans and their dependent ones, and for that object it is still available, carrying gladness and cheer to many a home which otherwise must find relief through a less gracious charity.

Agricultural pursuits have never been of great importance to Chicopee in a commercial sense, though the fertile lands in the Chicopee Street section have given good returns for the husbandman, and to this fact was due the early development of that region. Elsewhere within the present city limits the soil is mostly of little value for tillage purposes.

The manufacturing interests of Chicopee naturally had their beginning on Chicopee Street and were of the simple sort

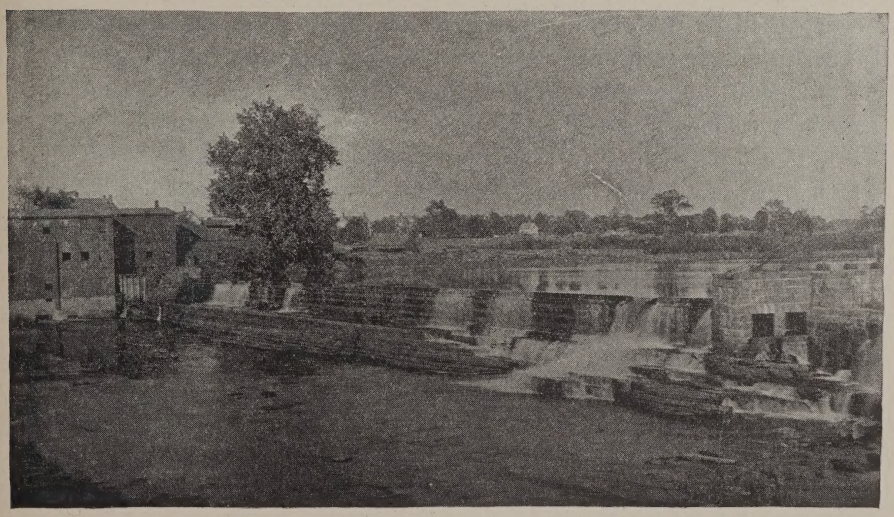
common to most of the early settlements. A saw mill was built near the south end of the Street in 1791, and a blacksmith shop was established a little later. Boot and shoe making was carried on to some extent for outside trade in the early part of the nineteenth century, Otis Skeele being the first manufacturer. He established a shop at Willimansett after having carried on the business on Chicopee Street, and some time later he was succeeded by A. G. Parker. Both of these establishments marketed boots and shoes in Hartford and New York. In 1853 Mr. Parker took his son, Josiah A. Parker, into partnership, and the business was removed to Chicopee Center a little later, where it was carried on until about 1885. Brick making was also a profitable industry, Giles S. Chapin being the pioneer and furnishing brick for many of the factories and other buildings at Chicopee Center, as the village there developed. The making of friction matches was started in 1835 by Chapin & Phillips, their establishment being the first of the kind in the country and perhaps in the world. The business grew to considerable proportions, and at least twenty people were employed at one time. The industry passed into other hands after a few years and was finally removed from the town. Broom making was also for a considerable time one of the active interests of the place. The Willimansett Manufacturing company was organized in 1831 for the making of machine cards and small hardware, principally carpenters' tools. Previous to this time all such articles had been imported, and were very costly. This company developed a business which at one time employed a hundred men and did much to make a name for American hardware. Bemis & Sheffield were the agents, and after a time removed the industry to Springfield, where it is still continued under the name of the Bemis & Call Hardware and Tool company.

The excellent water power, easily available, at the falls of the Chicopee river, early attracted the attention of manufacturers, and gave to the locality the name of Chicopee Factory Village, by which it was long known. Metals, wood and metal in combination, and cotton goods have formed the principal

lines of product, and in these a large variety of articles have been turned out. Iron manufacture was the first industry to demand attention, and as early as 1786 land and water power were leased in perpetuity to James Byers and William Smith of Springfield, on the condition that they should within two years erect iron works for the manufacture of hollow ware. The ore was taken from a lean vein a short distance above the dam on the same side of the river. The property was sold to Benjamin Belcher, Abijah Witherell and William Witherell, in 1801, and four years later Mr. Belcher bought the interests of his partners and continued the business of iron founding until his death in 1833. His three sons, Benjamin B., John W., and Bildad B., carried on the business until 1846, when John W. Belcher became sole proprietor, and began the manufacture of agricultural implements. During the next thirty years the firm name underwent several changes, Jonathan R. and John R. Whittemore being members of the firm from 1851 to 1875, and George L. Squier from 1852 to 1857. In 1875 the firm name was changed to B. & J. W. Belcher and so continued until June 1, 1889, when the business of the firm was discontinued.

The Belcher & Taylor Agricultural Tool company is the outgrowth of an enterprise established by Mr. Bildad B. Belcher after his withdrawal from the business inherited from his father. With two others he erected works on the south side of the river, in 1852, became sole owner in 1854, and was burned out in 1860. The works were re-established on the north side of the river, and in 1863 Mr. George S. Taylor became a partner under the firm name of Belcher & Taylor. During November, 1864, the business was incorporated under the present title, with Mr. Belcher as president and Mr. Taylor as treasurer. The latter has continued in office to the present time, but there have been several changes in the presidency, John Wells, Elijah Blake and E. O. Carter having been among the incumbents. The capital stock is $50,000, and the present board of officers consists of William P. McFarland, president; George S. Taylor, agent and treasurer; Frederick N. Witherell, secretary; Andrew Gale, superintendent.

The Chicopee Manufacturing company was incorporated in 1822, as the Boston and Springfield Manufacturing company, with a capital stock of $500,000. The local parties in interest were the brothers Jonathan and Edmund Dwight, who purchased of Benjamin Belcher the entire water power and land at the Falls, the title to the water power still remaining vested in the corporation which they organized, in connection with Boston capitalists. The dam, canal and mills were begun the following year, and by 1826 three mill buildings and a bleachery had been completed. In 1828 the corporate name was changed



A View of the Dam—Chicopee Falls

to the present designation, and as the business developed the capitalization was gradually increased until it is now $1,000,000. The product of the mills has been principally cotton flannels and sheetings, and an average of more than 1,000 hands are employed. The present officers of the corporation are: President, E. B. Beebe; treasurer, G. A. Silsbee, both of Boston; agent, Henry A. Bailey.

The Massachusetts Arms company was organized in 1850 with a capital stock of $70,000 for the manufacture of firearms

and machinery, and under the agency of Mr. T. W. Carter began the making of revolvers. After a time this was decided to be an infringement of the Colt patents, and the company took up the manufacture of other weapons, being engaged during the war period from 1861 to 1865 in turning out Maynard breech-loaders for the use of the United States cavalry. After the close of the war the business was purchased by Mr. Carter, and was carried on by him until sold to the Lamb Knitting-Machine Manufacturing company in 1876.

The J. Stevens Arms and Tool company was incorporated in 1886 with a capital stock of $40,000, to continue the business established in 1864 by J. Stevens & Co., in the manufacture of the Stevens breech-loading arms and various small tools and appliances. The present board of officers consists of Irving Page, president and treasurer, and G. E. Page, secretary.

The Lamb Knitting Machine company was incorporated in 1867 with a capital stock of $100,000; was reincorporated in 1893 as the Lamb Manufacturing company, with a capital of $500,000; and again reincorporated in 1900 with a capital of $40,000. During the first period Mr. Timothy W. Carter was the president; during the second organization, when the manufacture of bicycle and other goods was carried on, Mr. A. G. Spalding was president. The present board of officers consists of Robert Russell, president; Frank D. Howard, treasurer and manager. A principal part of the business of the corporation has been the manufacturing of knitting machines under the patents of I. W. Lamb.

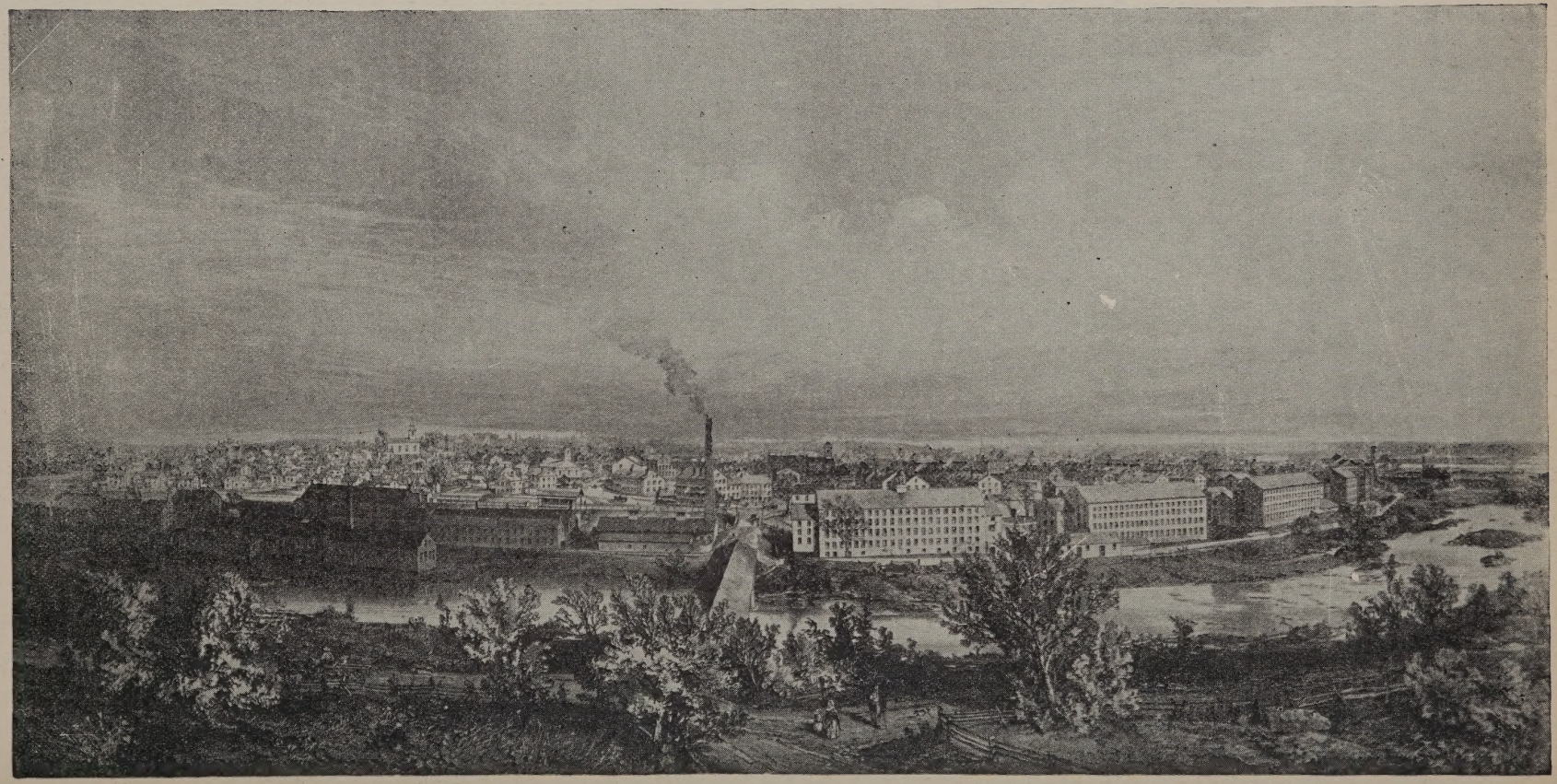
The Overman Wheel company, with a capitalization of $250,000, was organized in 1882 by A. H. Overman, at Chicopee, and a few years later built extensive shops at Chicopee Falls, where the manufacture of the Victor bicycle was carried on for a dozen years, on a very large scale. The company went out of business about 1897.

With numerous minor enterprises, these have been the central industries of the village of Chicopee Falls during the century of its existence. Most of them have been of a character to require the service of intelligent and capable workmen, and

the standard of the population has been well maintained, socially, morally and intellectually.

Manufacturing at Chicopee Center, then Cabotville, began about 1810, when William, Levi and Joseph Chapin erected a small mill into which were put two carding machines and two spinning frames. These proprietors purchased cotton at eleven or twelve cents a pound which they carded and spun. It was woven into cloth on the hand looms which were then to be found in many houses, and the cloth thus produced sold at thirty-five to forty cents a yard. Even the simplest of cotton fabrics were at that time decided luxuries. Another mill of similar character seems to have been operated for a short time by a Mr. Pinney, but the introduction of machinery into cotton manufacturing soon drove establishments of this kind out of business.

The Dwight Manufacturing company is the direct successor of the first manufactory established at Cabotville. In 1830 the water power there, then known as the "lower privilege," was owned by the Chicopee Manufacturing company, who had recently begun operations at the Falls; but in 1831 the Springfield Canal company, largely composed of stockholders in the Chicopee, organized with a capital of $90,000 and bought the interests of the parent company at Cabotville. John Chase was chosen as agent for the new corporation, and entered upon his duties with great energy and ability. During 1832 a dam was built across the Chicopee river and the canal for carrying water to the proposed mills was constructed, as well as a small machine shop for building machinery to be used in cotton manufacture. Sites and power privileges were sold to various corporations and firms as required. The Cabot Manufacturing company was the first on the ground, being organized in 1832 with a capital stock of $400,000, for making cotton goods. Their first mill was put in operation in the summer of 1834, and another mill in the year following. In 1836 and again in 1839 the capital stock was increased $50,000, making a capitalization of a half-million. The Perkins mills was incorporated in 1836 with a capital stock of $400,000, built their first mill that year and another the year following, their capital stock being likewise twice increased by



View of Chicopee in 1856

From an old engraving

$50,000. In 1852, by an act of the legislature, these companies were consolidated under the name of the Perkins mills. Meantime the Dwight Manufacturing company had been incorporated in 1841 with a capital stock of $500,000, which in 1843 was increased to $700,000. Their first mill had already been built by the canal company, but another was added soon after the incorporation, and a third in 1844. In 1856 the Perkins mills and the Dwight company were consolidated, retaining the name of the latter, and the seven large mills passed under one management. The company is now capitalized at $1,200,000, and the officers are: President, T. Jefferson Coolidge; treasurer, J. Howard Nichols, both of Boston; agent, Louis Aumann.

The Ames Manufacturing company was incorporated in 1834 with a capital stock of $30,000. It was named for N. P. Ames, an edge-tool manufacturer who came from Chelmsford, Mass., to Chicopee Falls in 1829, with his sons, N. P. Ames, Jr., and James T. Ames. In 1831 they began the manufacture of swords for the United States government, in which industry they at once took a high rank. In 1834 the works were removed to Cabotville and the corporation formed, and two years later they began the manufacture of bronze cannon, for which they became equally famous. In 1841 the property of the Chicopee Falls company was bought and the works were removed to that village, the capital stock being increased to $75,000; but four years later the property of the Springfield Canal company was bought and the business returned to Cabotville, with an increase in the capital to $200,000. Prior to the war period the company had in successful operation an iron foundry, turning heavy castings, machinery, and the like, as well as a plated ware department, in addition to the manufacture of swords and cannon. During the war of the rebellion its government work occupied the energies of the company, and in the succeeding years much attention was given to the production of high grade bronze work for monuments, memorial tablets, and the like. In 1881 the Ames Sword company was organized with a capital of $150,000 for carrying on the business of sword manufacture and sale; the present officers of the company being: President, John

D. Bryant; treasurer, Gamaliel Bradford, both of Boston; superintendent, Charles A. Buckley. The business of brass founding is now owned and conducted by James C. Buckley, under the name of the Ames Foundries.

The Gaylord Manufacturing company was formed in 1863, at the height of the civil war, with Emerson Gaylord as president, for the purpose of manufacturing military equipments of leather. The manufacture of cabinet locks was added, and at the close of the war, when the demand for military goods fell off, the buisness of the Chicopee Malleable Iron company was bought and incorporated. About 1875 the manufacture of swords was taken up, and carried on for several years with great success, special attention being given to fine goods for society use and presentation purposes. Later on the business was discontinued and the company dissolved.

Of the later incorporated industries, now in business, the following may be regarded as the more important: Overman Automobile company, manufactures of automobiles; incorporated, 1900; capital stock, $250,000. President A. H. Overman; treasurer, William R. Warren; secretary, D. E. Rianhard. Olmsted & Tuttle company, dealers in cotton waste and manufacturers of mattresses, comfortables, etc.; business established in 1840, incorporated 1888; capital $100,000. Frank E. Tuttle, president, treasurer and secretary. Fisk Rubber company, manufacturers of rubber tires for bicycles, carriages and automobiles; incorporated in 1898; capital $33,000. Harry G. Fisk, secretary and treasurer. Metric Granule and Tablet company, chemists; incorporated 1896; capital $20,000. President, C. W. Jordan; treasurer and manager, Dr. Edward D. Chapman. The Taylor, Bramley company, manufacturers of knit goods; incorporated 1898; capital $20,000. President, H. Lee Mallory, Brooklyn, N. Y.,; secretary and treasurer, Albert E. Taylor. Chicopee Falls Wheel company, manufacturers of bicycles; incorporated 1888; capital stock $12,000. President, H. S. Boyd, vice-president, Francis M. Bennitt; treasurer and manager, C. C. Abbey. Burtworth Carpet company, manufacturers of carpets; incorporated 1893; capital stock $10,000. President,

George W. Kimball, Springfield; treasurer, F. B. Strickland. The S. Blaisdell, jr., company, dealers in cotton and waste; incorporated 1893; capital stock $5,000. President and treasurer, C. M. Blaisdell; vice-president and secretary, G. A. Blaisdell.

The Coburn Trolley Track Manufacturing company, incorporated in 1888 with a capital stock of $150,000, formerly doing business in Holyoke, removed to the Willimansett district of Chicopee in 1900, having purchased convenient grounds adjoining the railroad tracks and erected a fine suite of buildings for the carrying on its business.

The matter of lighting the manufacturing establishments early became an important one, and in 1849 a gas company was organized at the Center, the four leading companies uniting to furnish the capital. After the absorption of the other cotton manufacturing companies by the Dwight, the ownership of the gas works rested with that company, and provision was made for supplying factories, stores, offices and dwellings with gaslight. But in 1897 a movement was made which resulted in the formation and incorporation of a new company, known as the Chicopee Gas Light company, with a capital stock of $92,500. The officers are: President, Richard S. Storrs of New York; treasurer, Frank S. Butterworth; vice-president and clerk, Luther White; superintendent, Charles H. Nutting.

The electric lighting plant is owned by the city, and is under the charge of a manager appointed by the mayor, George E. Stebbins being the present incumbent.

The first general water supply was brought to the then village of Cabotville in 1845 through pipes laid from the higher ground to the south of the village by Charles W. McClallan and R. E. Bemis. Springs and wells furnished the source of supply, and this simple system was found adequate for thirty years, it having near the end of that period become the property of Mr. McClallan, following the death of Mr. Bemis. In 1876 arrangements were made to increase the supply by taking the flow of certain pure-water brooks just east of the Chicopee line, within the limits of Springfield. In the following year a

company with a capital stock of $50,000 was organized as the Chicopee Water company, with Mr. McClallan as president, and a system of pipes was laid for supplying manufacturers, residents, and the fire service. The supply thus secured, which was furnished by gravitation, proved adequate until 1886, when a pumping station was erected at the junction of South and Springfield streets. In 1892 steps were taken for the inauguration of an adequate water service for the entire city, to be operated under the direction of a board of water commissioners, and this innovation was carried through during that and the following years. The property of the Chicopee Water company was secured by the city, to avoid any conflict of interests, and a supply more suitable in volume and in quality was secured by damming Cooley and Morton brooks, within the city limits, an adequate system of mains and pipes being laid. A wrought-iron stand-pipe sixty feet in height and with a capacity of more than a million gallons was erected on Keating's hill, and first-class pumping engines of liberal capacity were also installed. The property of the Willimansett Water company, organized in 1892, was likwise purchased by the city, thus bringing the entire water-supply system of the city under a single management. The board of water commissioners for 1901 consists of Patrick Rourke, chairman, Frank H. Morton and Andrew Gale. George E. Carter is superintendent.

The banking interests of the city of Chicopee are embodied in one national bank with moderate capitalization and two savings banks—one of the latter located at the Center and the other at the Falls. All of these are in good condition, and the amount of savings on deposit speaks well for the thrifty character of the working men and women of the city. This trait is still more strongly shown by the fact that much of the financial business of Chicopee is done with Springfield institutions, owing to the size and strength of the latter and the proximity of the two cities.

The First National bank of Chicopee was chartered under Massachusetts state laws as "Cabot Bank," January 24, 1845, and organized on the first of March of that year with John

Chase as president and Gilbert Walker as cashier. The capital stock was fixed at $150,000, and has remained unchanged to the present time. It was reorganized as a national bank, under the present title, in 1865. The bank's surplus now amounts to $78,400, and the present board of officers comprises: President, Joseph A. Carter; cashier, Frederick B. Doten; directors, Thomas C. Page, James L. Pease, Frederick B. Doten, Joseph A. Carter, Luther White, John B. Wood, Irving H. Page.

The Chicopee Savings bank was organized in 1854. Jerome Wells was the first president, and served for twenty years, being succeeded by George D. Robinson in 1874, and by Emerson Gaylord in 1878. With all of these Henry H. Harris served as treasurer. The bank has now in round numbers $1,100,000 in deposits, representing the accounts of 2,400 depositors, being an average of nearly $460 each. The officers are: President, John B. Wood; vice-presidents, Joseph A. Carter, Frederick B. Doten, Albert J. Jenks, George A. Edgerton; secretary, Luther White; treasurer, Russell L. Scott.

It was not until March 20, 1875, that the Chicopee Falls Savings bank was incorporated, on the petition of forty-one prominent citizens of that village. Josiah W. Osgood was chosen the first president, with George S. Taylor, Thomas C. Page and William J. Sawin as vice-presidents, Edgar T. Paige as secretary, and Andrew P. Chapin as treasurer. The bank now has deposits of about $619,000. The present board of officers comprises: President, George S. Taylor; vice-presidents, Thomas C. Page, William P. McFarland, Andrew Gale; clerk and treasurer, Henry J. Boyd.

While the early history of educational matters within the limits of the present city is very meager, it is evident that but little attention was given to the establishing of public schools until after the commencement of the nineteenth century, and even during the first quarter of that century the educational interests of the common people seem to have received but little consideration. In 1812 two school districts were laid out by the Springfield town authorities, and were designated as No. 3 and No. 5. The latter included the settlement of Skipmuck.

and there a school house was built about this time, twenty by thirty feet in size, having two small windows for lighting purposes, and a large stone fireplace for warming the room in winter. A board attached to the wall at an angle and faced by a rude bench on which the scholars sat served as desk for the older pupils, while the younger children sat on similar benches in the middle of the room, without the desk attachment.

With the construction of the large manufacturing plants came more practical measures for schooling, whose importance was fully realized by the manufacturers. In fact, we find some

Old High School—Chicopee Falls

of the noted men of the community of later years giving their services as teachers during the early portion of the manufacturing development. Among the men who thus served appear the names of John W. Belcher, Ezekiel Adams, Bildad B. Belcher, Elihu Adams, Samuel Alvord, and a little later George D. Robinson. In the fall of 1845 the Boston and Springfield Manufacturing company build a brick school house on Church street at Chicopee Falls, which they presented to the district. It was originally of one story, but another was added a little later, giving a seating capacity of 150. This was near the site now

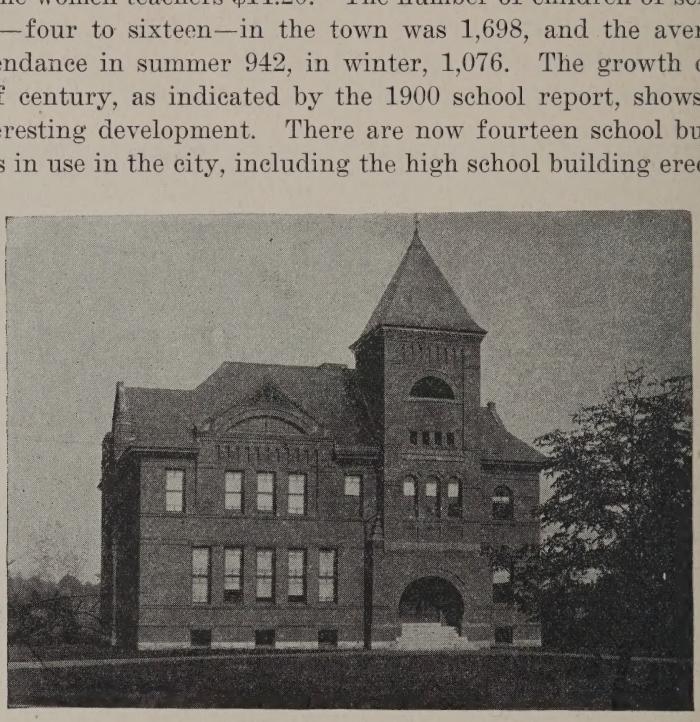
occupied by the Church street grammar school, originally erected twenty years later. A little later a school house was built on the north side of the river at the Falls for the use of the children of district No. 3, which was torn down and replaced by a brick building in 1846. This in turn gave place to the commodious building now in use in that portion of the city. The first building at Cabotville, or Chicopee Center, was erected about the same time as that at Skipmuck, and was of a similar

A Chicopee Falls School Building

type, though somewhat superior. In 1834 a brick building was erected on School street at a cost of $2,000, and in 1842 one for the higher departments, and afterward used for the Center high school, was completed. In 1846 brick buildings were erected at Willimansett and on Chicopee street.

The first town school report was made in 1849, the year following the separation of Chicopee from Springfield. It showed eight school districts with twenty schools, ten of which

were at Chicopee Center and four at the Falls. District No. 8, however, had but one scholar, and that one attended school in Granby. Thirty-three teachers were employed, eight of whom were men, their average monthly salaries being $37.35, and that of the women teachers $14.20. The number of children of school age—four to sixteen—in the town was 1,698, and the average attendance in summer 942, in winter, 1,076. The growth of a half century, as indicated by the 1900 school report, shows an interesting development. There are now fourteen school buildings in use in the city, including the high school building erected



The New High School

in 1890 on Front street, midway between the Center and the Falls, and the Belcher building on East street, Falls, completed and occupied in 1900. The school census of 1899 showed 3,072 pupils between five and fifteen years of age, and the enrollment of the public schools (parochial schools not included) was 2,392. Sixty-five teachers were employed, and the total amount expended for the support of the schools, not including repairs, amounted to $50,000 in round numbers. The estimated value of the school property was $220,000. Evening schools were also

held in each of the principal sections of the city, at which the enrollment included 471 names.

The Chicopee City library, now a most creditable institution, had its origin in the Cabot institute, a literary club, incorporated in 1846. With funds secured from the several corporations and from appreciative individuals, the institute was able during the seven years of its existence to accumulate a library of about 900 volumes. In 1853 it was voted to donate this collection to the town, provided the town would agree for ten years to appropriate annually $100 for new books and to meet the incidental expenses of the library. The offer was accepted and the provisions were carried out in good faith. At the expiration of the ten years the supervision of the library was vested in a committee to be chosen annually by the selectmen. Under the city government the affairs of the institution are entrusted to a board of three trustees, one of whom is elected annually by the aldermen to serve for three years. On the completion of the town hall the library was transferred to a room therein set apart for the purpose; and on the 7th of April, 1884, it was made free to the residents of Chicopee, a nominal fee of fifty cents having been previously charged for the privilege of enjoying its advantages. In 1891, the city hall accommodations having been outgrown, a lot next to the city hall, with a brick dwelling upon it, was bought as a library site, the house being remodeled to meet the purposes of a library building until such time as the city should be able to provide a more adequate structure. The annual appropriation is $3,200; there are now in round numbers 21,000 volumes in the library, and branches have been established at Chicopee Falls and Willimansett for the benefit of residents in those sections. Miss Anne A. Smith is librarian, with four assistants.

Chicopee has never been a successful field for local newspapers, and though having a population of practically 20,000, no paper is now published within its limits. This fact is, of course, largely due to the proximity of Springfield, and the thoroughness with which the field is covered by the excellent journals of that city. Several newspaper enterprises have been

City Hall—Chicopee

inaugurated, some of which have been maintained by earnest effort for respectable periods. The first was the Cabotville Chronicle and Chicopee Falls Advertiser, established in January, 1840, by Thomas D. Blossom. It was leased in 1844 by John L. Hall and O. Butterfield, who changed the name to the Mechanics' Offering, but was soon taken back by Mr. Blossom, who continued the publication until the spring of 1846. A new paper by the same name was shortly after started, and with several changes in ownership and management was continued until 1850, the name being changed to the Cabotville Mirror and later to the Springfield Mirror. The Chicopee Telegraph was published by J. C. Stoever & Co. from 1846 to 1853, and the Chicopee Weekly Journal, which appeared soon after the suspension of the Telegraph, was continued, under various owners, until 1862. In the early part of 1896, McPhee & Shattuck established the Chicopee Herald, first as a weekly and after a few months as a daily ,and continued its publication until the autumn of 1898, when the enterprise was discontinued.

The First Congregational Church.—The Chicopee settlers attended religious worship at Springfield, except when occasional services were held at the houses of some of their number, for many years. In 1749, as the precinct had attained a population of forty voters, they began to consider the matter of a separate religious parish; but the Springfield members were reluctant to grant the request of the Chicopee residents, and refused the petition when it was presented. The following year, 1750, a petition was sent to the general court at Boston, Japhet Chapin going down in October of that year to urge the cause of his people. The First parish at Springfield sent a committee in opposition. After hearing both sides the general court reported favorably upon the application and the parish was organized, as the Fifth or North parish of Springfield, consisting of the territory now covered by Chicopee Street, Willimansett, Holyoke and part of Chicopee Center. Measures were at once taken for the building of a meeting house 42 by 33 feet in size, the work was done by volunteers from the parish. The frame was raised June 5, 1751, and religious services were held Sun-

day, July 21, of that year, although the building was far from completion.

In October, 1751, measures were taken to settle a pastor, and Rev. John McKinstry was engaged "to preach to us for a quarter of a year." At the end of that time it was voted to settle the candidate as a permanent pastor, and September 24, 1752, he was ordained to the position, which he held for sixty-one years, although doing active pastoral duty for only thirty years. Rev. Mr. McKinstry died in 1813, but there had been no regular religious services in the parish for thirty years preceding his

Chicopee Street

death, and it was not until April 28, 1824, that another pastor was ordained and installed in the person of Rev. Alexander Phœnix. One of the conditions of his settlement was the repairing of the old meeting house or the building of a new one. The latter measure was decided upon; the structure was erected in 1825 and dedicated January 4, 1826. Mr. Phœnix's pastorate continued until 1835, and the subsequent pastors have been: Ebenezer B. Wright, 1835-9; Eli B. Clark, 1839-75; William E. Dickinson, 1876-87; Rev. Collins G. Burnham, 1888-1901.

The Second Congregational church was organized July 3, 1830, as the First Congregational church of Chicopee Factory Village, Rev. George Nichols as a missionary being the first preacher. A society was organized October 11, 1832, with many of the substantial men of the place as members, and the church building was erected the following year, on the site now occupied at the corner of Church and Court streets. The structure was rebuilt in 1859, a spire being added and vestry rooms provided in the basement. The first settled pastor was Rev. Dorus Clark, who was installed March 4, 1835, and served for five years. His successors have been: Rev. Ebenezer P. Rogers, 1840-43; Rev. Frederick A. Barton, 1843-6; Rev. Stephen S. U. Greeley, 1846-51; Rev. William Wright, 1852-4; Rev. Richard B. Thurston, 1855-8; Rev. Frederic Alvord, 1858-61; Rev. Roswell Foster, 1863-7; Rev. Joshua T. Tucker, 1868-77; Rev. Samuel J. Austin, 1877-83; Rev. Rufus P. Hibbard, 1886-8; Rev. William G. Poor, 1889-93; Rev. H. G. Pillsbury, 1895, yet in service.

The Third Congregational church is situated at Chicopee Center, and was organized with but eighteen members, October 16, 1834. The society was formed March 2, 1835. The erection of a church building was begun in 1836, the structure being completed and dedicated the following year. It is recorded that one influential member of the society, Nathan P. Ames, contributed $5,000 toward this building, which must have been much the larger part of its cost. This structure was used for over thirty years, until 1868, when it was taken down and replaced by a new building, dedicated February 15, 1870, occupying the same site. The first pastor, Rev. Sumner G. Clapp, was installed April 26, 1837, and served until January 22, 1850. His successors in the pastorate have been: Rev. George H. Oviatt, 1850-55; Rev. L. H. Cone, 1857-67; Rev. Edwin B. Palmer, 1869-75; Rev. William L. Gaylord, 1875-82; Rev. Charles S. Murkland, 1884-6; Rev. Burton W. Lockhart, 1889-93; Rev. Charles Pease, 1895-8; Rev. Herbert P. Woodin, 1899, the present pastor.

The Methodist Episcopal church, Chicopee Falls, was probably the first religious body organized at that village, though its

records are incomplete during its first half-century of existence. As early as 1822 a body of worshipers of that faith organized and held meetings—first at the house of one of their number, and later in a brick school house on Church street. A modest house of worship was erected at the corner of Broadway and East street about 1829. A larger church was built on the same site in 1841 and dedicated the following year, and is still in use, having since been remodeled and greatly improved. The pastors, so far as their names and terms of service can be definitely traced, have been as follows: Rev. E. Otis, 1833-5; Rev. A. Tailor, 1835-6; Rev. Ebenezer Blake, 1836-8; Rev. Pardon T. Kennedy, 1838-9; Rev. L. W. Blood, 1839-40; Rev. Windsor Ward, 1840-41; Rev. Thomas Morey, 1841-2; Rev. Philo Hawkes, 1842-3; Rev. Freeman Nutting, 1843-5; Rev. David Sherman, 1845-7; Rev. Robert Kellen, 1847-9; Rev. James Porter, 1849-50; Rev. Windsor Ward, 1850-51; Rev. Charles Noble, 1851-3; Rev. David H. Sherman, 1853-5; Rev. Benjamin F. Green, 1855-7; Rev. John W. Lee, 1857-8; Rev. Albert D. Vail, 1858-60; Rev. Rodney Gage, 1860-61; Rev. J. Oramel Peck, 1861-3; Rev. J. S. Thomas, 1863-5; Rev. J. H. Mansfield, 1866-7; Rev. C. T. Johnson, 1867-8; Rev. E. W. Virgin, 1868-70; Rev. O. W. Adams, 1870-72; Rev. Fayette Nichols, 1872-5; Rev. C. F. Ely, 1875-6; Rev. Albert C. Manson, 1876-9; Rev. David S. Cole, 1879-82; Rev. L. W. Staples, 1882-5; Rev. George H. Cheney, 1885-8; Rev. Garrett Beekman, 1888-91; Rev. Arthur W. Terrill, 1891-2; Rev. N. B. Fiske, 1892-5; Rev. William C. Townsend, 1895-8; Rev. Austin H. Herrick, 1898-1901.

The Central Methodist Episcopal church was organized in August, 1838, with but eighteen members. The house of worship on the east side of Perkins street, near School, was erected the following year, and six years later was enlarged. The present name has been in use since 1882, the church, from its location, being previous to that time known as the Perkins Street Methodist Episcopal church. The first pastor was Rev. Edmund S. Potter, from 1838 to 1840, and his successors have been: Rev. Mosely Dwight, 1840-42; Rev. Ephraim Scott, 1842-3; Rev. Benjamin F. Lambert, 1843-4; Rev. Daniel F. Bannister, 1844-6;

Rev. Loranus Crowell, 1846-8; Rev. James Porter, 1848-50; Rev. Lorenzo R. Thayer, 1850-52; Rev. William Rice, Jr., 1852-4; Rev. William H. Hatch, 1854-5; Rev. J. C. Cromack, 1855-7; Rev. Justin S. Barrows, 1857-9; Rev. Isaac Smith, 1859-60; Rev. John C. Smith, 1860-62; Rev. Pliny Wood, 1862-4; Rev. J. C. Hanaford, 1864-7; Rev. E. A. Manning, 1867-70; Rev. Daniel Richards, 1870-73; Rev. Pliny Wood, 1873 (preached one month, went to Europe for his health and died in Munich); Rev. J. A. Bartlett, 1873-4; Rev. Justin S. Barrows, 1874-6; Rev. Edward S. Best, 1876-9; Rev. Albert Gould, 1879-82; Rev. Austin H. Herrick, 1882-5; Rev. Charles H. Hanaford, 1885-8; Rev. George H. Clark, 1888-93; Rev. Charles M. Hall, 1893-5; Rev. George F. Durgin, 1895-6; Rev. R. E. Bisbee, 1896-9; Rev. William A. Wood, 1899, the present incumbent.

The First Baptist church and society were organized at Chicopee Falls, November 28, 1828, with but seventeen members, and for three years the society was served by various preachers, no regular pastor being engaged. A house of worship was erected in 1832, being removed to Market street in 1850, where it was enlarged and much improved. A new church was built in 1877, at the corner of Belcher and Springfield streets, at a cost of $16,000, and was dedicated in February, 1878. The settled pastors have been: Rev. Moses Curtis, 1833-5; Rev. Joseph M. Graves, 1835-8; Rev. Robert F. Ellis, 1838-45; Rev. Rufus K. Bellamy, 1848-82; Rev. James P. Hunter, 1883-6; Rev. Isaac H. Gilbert, 1887-9; Rev. L. L. Hobbs, 1890-94; Rev. Darius H. Stoddard, 1894-9; Rev. Norman North Bishop, 1900, present pastor.

The Central Baptist church, originally known as the Third Baptist church of Springfield, was organized at Chicopee Center, then known as Cabotville, July, 15, 1835, with twenty-one members. The brick church now occupied, at the corner of School and Cabot streets, was erected in 1838, and was dedicated February 7, 1839. The first pastor, during the period when the parish was without a church building, was Rev. Pierpont Brockett, from 1836 to 1838. Rev. Jonah G. Warren was installed at the dedication of the church, and served with much

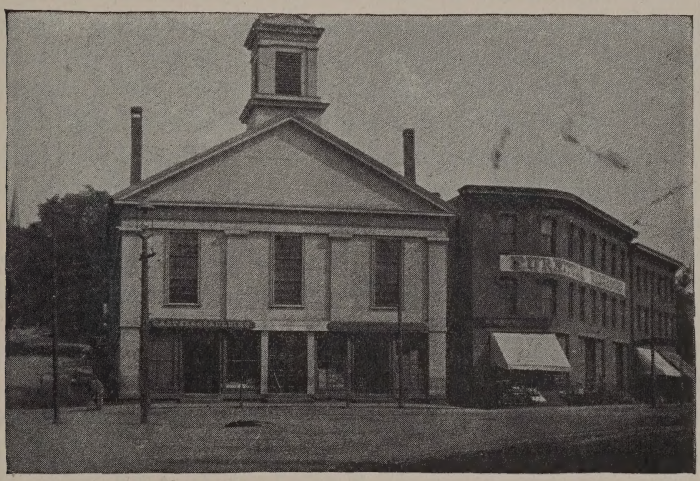
success for ten years, to February 11, 1849. The succeeding pastors have been: Rev. Benajah Cook, 1849-50; Rev. C. Billings Smith, 1851-2; Rev. Warren Lincoln, 1853-7; Rev. George E. How, 1857-62; Rev. M. L. Bickford, 1863-6; Rev. A. M. Higgins, 1867-70; Rev. G. R. Darron, 1870-71; Rev. A. DeF. Palmer, 1872-4; Rev. G. W. Fuller, 1877-80; Rev. George W. Davis, 1882-9; Rev. Thomas DeGruchy, 1890-93; Rev. Clifton K. Flanders, 1895-8; Rev. Eben C. Stover, 1898, now in charge.

Grace Episcopal church was organized April 6, 1846, and the first church building was erected on Cabot street, near School, in 1848, and was consecrated in May of that year. It was partially burned in 1872, and was not rebuilt until 1885, when the present structure at the corner of Springfield and Pleasant streets was erected. The parish has been much of the time without a settled rector, those who have served, with the exception of unimportant periods of supply, having been as follows: Rev. Charles Fisher, 1846; Rev. Andrew Croswell, 1847-9; Rev. Caleb Dow, 1849; Rev. E. F. Remington, 1849-51; Rev. Edward Jessup, 1853-4; Rev. William H. Munroe, 1856; Rev. Andrew Croswell, 1857-8; Rev. W. B. Colburn, 1860-62; Rev. M. A. Johnson, 1866-7; Rev. E. E. Atkinson, 1888-9; Rev. Newton Black, 1895, now in charge.

The Unitarian church was organized November 21, 1841, the society having been formed during the preceding March. A brick church building was erected the following year, and occupied until 1893, when the present house of worship on Grape street and Fairview avenue was dedicated. The pastors have been: Rev. Charles A. Farley, 1841; Rev. John A. Buckingham, 1842-3; Rev. Crawford Nightingale, 1845-51; Rev. Ephraim Nute, Jr., 1851-5; Rev. Samuel Pettes, Jr., 1855-60; Rev. Samuel C. Beane, 1862-4; Rev. John W. Hudson, 1865-6; Rev. Calvin Stebbins, 1866-9; Rev. Robert R. McLeod, 1870-71; Rev. I. F. Porter, 1872-82; Rev. C. W. Heiser, 1882-6; Rev. Edwin F. Hayward, 1888-9; Rev. Solon Lauer, 1891; Rev. Cary F. Abbott, 1893-7; Rev. William W. Peck, 1897, now in charge.

A Universalist society was organized February 27, 1835, and preaching services were held regularly, though a church was

not formed until October 20, 1840. The church building was erected on the south side of Market square in 1836, being dedicated in October of that year. It was built by a Mechanics' association, the title being afterward secured by the Universalists. Services were suspended in 1883, and the church property was sold a little later. These were the pastors during the existence of the church: Rev. Charles Spear, 1835-6; Rev. W. H. Fernald, 1836-8; Rev. A. A. Folsom, 1838-44; Rev. George W. Gage, 1844-5; Rev. Samuel Bennett, 1845-6; Rev. Zenas Thompson, 1846-8; Rev. W. R. G. Mellen, 1848-51; Rev. Uriah Clark,



Old Universalist Church

1851-2; Rev. Avery Denison, 1853; Rev. C. H. Webster, 1853-5; Rev. J. K. Karcher, 1855-6; Rev. B. V. Stevenson, 1857-68; Rev. Clarence Fowler, 1868-9; Rev. John E. Davenport, 1870-72; Rev. Theodore L. Dean, 1872-4; Rev. J. Riley Johnson, 1874-6; Rev. J. H. Weeks, 1877-80; Rev. G. W. Pierce, 1882-3.

The Church of the Holy Name of Jesus is the direct outcome of the early Roman Catholic labors in the Chicopee section. Father James Fitton conducted the first services as early as 1831, when his congregation consisted of thirty people in a population of something over two thousand. In that year the work of build-

ing a dam across Chicopee river and digging the canals for utilization of the water power was begun, and brought to the scene numerous laborers of the Catholic faith. For some years services were held from time to time in the homes of the people or in other available places, until a congregation was organized in 1838, and placed in the care of Rev. John Brady of Hartford, Conn. In 1839 a building site was secured on Pleasant street, the corner-stone of a church was laid the following year, and the interests of the parish were committed to Rev. John D. Brady, who came from Salem, Mass. It was not until September 29, 1843, that the church, a brick structure, was ready for dedication as St. Matthew's church. In 1845 Rev. Bernard O'Cavanagh became assistant to Father Brady, and the two priests cared for the religious interests of all the Catholics in the four western counties of the state. Father Brady died in 1847, and was succeeded for two years by Rev. James Strain. Rev. William Blenkinsop was the pastor from 1849 to 1864, during which time, to meet the needs of his growing congregation, he built a large church on the opposite side of the street. This was dedicated May 29, 1859, under the present name. Rev. Patrick Healy was the pastor from 1864 until his death in January, 1889. In 1867 he built the convent of the Sacred Heart of Mary and established parochial schools for the parish. In 1881 the boys' school and the monastery for the Brothers were built. Father Healy was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Henry L. Robinson, who served as pastor until his death in 1894, when Rev. John J. McCoy, the present incumbent, assumed the rectorship.

St. Patrick's church at Chicopee Falls had its beginning in a Sunday school established there about 1850 by Rev. James Strain, then pastor at Chicopee. This continued until 1870, when Rev. Patrick Stone, assistant pastor at Chicopee, undertook the task of securing for the worshipers at the Falls a church of their own. The funds were raised, the edifice was built, and on the 15th of December, 1872, was dedicated under the above name. A parish rectory, now the convent home for the Sisters of St. Joseph, was built during the same year. Father Stone was made pastor, and still holds the position, after practically

thirty years of service. The assistants have been: Rev. Michael J. Murphy, 1874-84; Rev. Martin Murphy, 1884-6; Rev. James McLaughlin, 1886-9; Rev. Richard Healy, 1889-93; Rev. John J. O'Malley, assigned January 1, 1894, is the present incumbent. In 1880 a site was bought on Columbia street, on which were built, in 1881, a new rectory and the parish schools. In 1890, in connection with other important improvements on the parish property, the church was greatly enlarged, and in 1897 it was furnished with a $4,000 organ.

The Church of the Assumption at Chicopee is the religious home of the French-speaking Catholics of the city of Canadian origin or parentage. Until 1885 it was a mission, having been served first by Father Dufresne of Holyoke, then by Father Landry of Indian Orchard. Its first resident pastor was Rev. Everest Pelletier, who was appointed in 1885 and served until his death in May, 1893. Under his pastorate the parish prospered and grew materially, and a frame church of moderate capacity was built. The original parish chapel built by Father Landry was converted into a comfortable rectory. His successor was Rev. Frederick Bonneville, the present pastor, who has remodeled and greatly improved the parish church and other buildings.

St. Stanislaus' church at Chicopee was organized for the benefit of the Poles, who began coming to the city in 1880. In 1890 Rev. Francis S. Chalupka of Webster was entrusted by Bishop O'Reilly with the task of organizing a Polish congregation. Work on a church building was begun in 1891, but it was not until October, 1895, that the structure was dedicated. In February of that year Father Chalupka settled at Chicopee as resident pastor, and thenceforth regular services were held, although the unfinished building had been in use for a considerable time for the religious purposes of the parish. Schools were established in 1897, and in 1898 the parish property was enlarged by the purchase of twelve house lots adjoining the church site. Father Chalupka still remains in charge of the pastoral work, and his assistants have been: Rev. John Conlin, 1892-3; Rev. James Cruse, 1895-6; and Rev. Venceslaus Lenz, the present assistant.

St. Joachim's church at Chicopee Falls was organized for the benefit of the French-speaking Catholics of that village, in 1893, by Rev. Alexis Delphos, acting under authority of Bishop Beaven, who recognized the necessity of giving those people more immediate church interests than they were able to enjoy through the Church of the Assumption. The organization was promptly effected, and a church structure was erected, which was dedicated November 18, 1894. The DeStelle homestead was purchased in 1895, and the family mansion thereon has been adopted as the parish presbytery. In 1895 Rev. Emile St. Onge came from Worcester as assistant pastor, and remained some four years.

The Catholic church at Willimansett and chapel at Aldenville are the results of efforts put forth by Rev. John J. McCoy of Chicopee in the autumn of 1894, assisted by Father Delphos—the former organizing the English-speaking and the latter the French-speaking people. A little hall was hired on Olivine street, Willimansett, fitted up as a chapel, and designated Notre Dame des Victoires, where the first mass in the village was said on Christmas morning of 1894 by Father McCoy. From that time regular services were held until September, 1897, when Rev. Hormisdas Hamelin was made resident pastor. During the following year he built a brick church on Chicopee Street at Willimansett and a frame chapel at Aldenville, both of which were dedicated by Bishop Beaven October 30, 1898. The church is now known as the Church of the Nativity. Father Hamelin's curates have been Rev. Peter Higgins and Rev. Michael Walsh.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE TOWN OF AGAWAM

The town of Agawam lies on the south line of Hampden county, west of the Connecticut river and south of the Agawam. Being bounded on two sides by rivers and on the west by the towns of Westfield and Southwick, its outlines are decidedly irregular except on the south, where the state line gives a direct course. The total area comprises a fraction less than twenty-five square miles. Its extent from north to south and from east to west is nearly equal, so that, notwithstanding its irregularity of outline, the town presents geographically a compact and well-defined section. The broad flow of the Connecticut on the east separates it from the town of Longmeadow, and for a very short distance from the city of Springfield; the winding course of the Agawam gives equally positive definition of the northern line, where Agawam is separated from the parent town of West Springfield so uncompromisingly that the village of Mittineague, which lies on both sides of the river, belongs in part to each of the towns. On the west the division runs on or near the summit of the extensive trap-rock range.

This range gives the highest elevation of the town, Proven's hill rising to a height of 665 feet above the normal level of the Connecticut river. Other hills of somewhat inferior altitude are within the limits of the town, Mount Pisgah and Liswell hill being located near the village of Feeding Hills, with Buck hill further toward the Connecticut line. In the northwestern portion of the town, along the Agawam, the scenery is rugged and picturesque, the stream for much of the distance making its way through and around the base of compact hill ranges. Approaching the Connecticut river, the contour softens into broad and

fertile meadows, so low in portions that the grounds are liable to extensive overflow at time of high water in the rivers.

Although it may justly claim to have been among the earliest settled plantations of Western Massachusetts, Agawam did not become an independent town until 1855—less than a half-century ago; so that its exclusive history is a brief one.

For more than a century it was a portion of the town of Springfield, until in 1774 all that part of the town lying west of the Connecticut was created a separate town by action of the legislature, not at all against the wishes of its residents. This made Agawam, as the region had long been designated, a part of the town of West Springfield; a relationship which continued for more than eighty years, until the incorporation as a separate town, May 17, 1855.

Yet Agawam may properly be considered the mother of Springfield plantation. Within its present borders the first settlement or location was made in the spring or summer of 1635. At that time certain parties located at Roxbury and other settlements in the vicinity of Boston having petitioned for permission to settle on "the great river," as the Connecticut was familiarly known, and their petition having been granted under condition that they remain within the jurisdiction of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, exploring parties were sent out to choose suitable locations. Some of these selected the site of Hartford and other points now within the state of Connecticut, while two of their number, Messrs. Woodcock and Cable, continued north until they reached the confluence of the Connecticut and Agawam rivers. Probably they ascended "the great river" on its western side until their further progress was barred by the Agawam, and being impressed by the fertile meadows among which they found themselves and which had been cultivated to some extent by the Indians, they fixed upon that spot as the site for their proposed town. At any rate, they built a rude house, which was occupied for some months. But being warned by the Indians that the lands here were liable to inundation, the site was abandoned, and when the settlement was made the following year it was upon the higher ground on the east side of the

river. But the name of "Agawam" was transferred to the new site, and the entire grant, twenty-five miles square, was known by that name until in honor of William Pynchon its designation was changed in 1640 to "Springfield"—the name of Mr. Pynchon's home in England. But the territory now constituting the town of Agawam retained its original appellation as a local name, and very properly adopted it on being incorporated as a town.

The Agawam territory was probably designated as a part of the "outward commons" of Springfield very soon after the settlement. In 1638 it was voted that it should be lawful for any Springfield man to put over horse, cows, or younger cattle on the other side of the river until the first of November, and the name of "Feeding Hills" village doubtless comes from the use thus made of the unoccupied lands. But it was twenty-five years after the visit of Woodcock and Cable before a permanent settlement was made south of the Agawam river. In that year grants were made to Thomas Cooper, Abel Leonard, and Thomas Merrick. The lands thus granted, and those later acquired by Messrs. Cooper and Merrick, were sold to Abram Burbank, from Suffield, Conn., in 1764; but the Leonard family has always been a strong and influential one in Agawam. Gradually the number of settlers increased, and the religious interests of the community largely molded those of municipal nature. The separation into religious parishes, generally speaking, prepared the way for the more complete separation involved in the setting off of new towns from the parent territory. The unwieldy area of Springfield invited early division, and town after town was created, as the population increased and local interests demanded local administration. In 1773 the great and general court took the matter of further division into their hands, and set off all the remaining region west of the Connecticut as the town of West Springfield. This included the present territory of Holyoke, West Springfield and Agawam, extending from the Connecticut state line to the present south line of Hampshire county, an area of sixty square miles. This arrangement remained unchanged for more than seventy-five years, until 1850, when "Ireland Parish" was incorporated as the town of Holyoke.

A little later the people of Agawam, now considerably over 1,000 in number, also aspired for an independent government, and on May 17, 1855, the Massachusetts legislature passed an act for the incorporation of the town of Agawam, to comprise "all that part of the town of West Springfield which lies southerly of the line commencing at the north mouth of the Agawam river, so called, and running westerly by the course and center of said river to the town line of Westfield." The first town meeting was held June 12, 1855, under a warrant addressed by Samuel Flower, justice of the peace, to Lewis L. Whitman, and was held at the Methodist church. Alfred Flower was chosen clerk and treasurer, and Orson Swetland, James S. Smith, and Ralph Adams selectmen, assessors, and overseers of the poor. The full list of the incumbents of these offices from the date of incorporation to 1901 has been as follows:

Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor.—1855, Orson Swetland, James S. Smith, Ralph Adams; 1856, Ralph Adams, Samuel Flower, Grosvenor Marcy; 1857, Ralph Adams, Justus R. Cooley, Samuel Flower; 1858, Ralph Adams, William Roberts, Grosvenor Marcy; 1859, Ralph Adams, Charles Colton, Horace E. Roberts; 1860-61, Charles Colton, Isaac Roberts, Josiah Johnson; 1862, Charles Colton, Frederick A. Johnson, Joseph Bedortha[1]; 1863, Joseph Bedortha, John G. Freeland, Joseph L. Smith; 1864, Joseph Bedortha, Joseph L. Smith, Grosvenor Marcy; 1865, Joseph Bedortha, John G. Freeland, Elijah D. Allen; 1866-7, J. Henry Churchill, James H. Ferre, Edward K. Bodurtha; 1868, J. Henry Churchill, Asa Clark, Oscar A. Parks; 1869, J. Henry Churchill, Oscar A. Parks, Edward K. Bodurtha; 1870, J. Henry Churchill, Oscar A. Parks, Joseph Bedortha; 1871, Joseph Bedortha, Jonathan W. Freeland Luke C. Sheldon; 1872, J. Henry Churchill, Frederick N. Leonard, Luke C. Sheldon; 1873, J. Henry Churchill, Reuben Dewitt, Joseph V. Walcott; 1874, J. Henry Churchill, Ralph Adams,

[1]Frequently in this chapter, and also in various other chapters of this work, writers have spelled this surname Bedortha and occasionally Bodortha, thus following the example of early Springfield and West Springfield town clerks. The name properly spelled is Bodurtha, and has been known in our county history for two and a half centuries.

Seth N. Bennett; 1875, J. Henry Churchill, Byron C. Roberts, Edward K. Bodurtha; 1876, J. Henry Churchill, Lewis L. Whitman, Edwin Leonard, 2d; 1877, J. Henry Churchill, Lewis L. Whitman, Frederick N. Leonard; 1878, Lewis L. Whitman, J. Henry Churchill, Edwin Leonard, 2d; 1879, Lewis L. Whitman, Oscar A, Parks, Edwin Leonard, 2d; 1880, Edward K. Bodurtha, Edwin Leonard, 2d, J. Henry Churchill; 1881, Edwin Leonard, 2d, Edward K. Bodurtha, Charles C. Wright; 1882-5, Edward K. Bodurtha, Edwin Leonard, 2d, J. Henry Churchill; 1886-8, Edward K. Bodurtha, Edwin Leonard, 2d, William H. Granger; 1889-90, Henry E. Bodurtha, James F. Barry, Edwin Leonard, 2d; 1891-2, James F. Barry, Alson W. Allen, Edwin Leonard, 2d; 1893, James F. Barry, Willis C. Campbell, Edwin Leonard, 2d; 1894, James F. Barry, Albert H. Brown, Willis C. Campbell; 1895, Henry E. Bodurtha, Albert H. Brown, James F. Barry; 1896, Henry E. Bodurtha, Edwin Leonard, 2d, R. Mather Taylor; 1897-9, Henry E. Bodurtha, R. Mather Taylor, John H. Reed; 1900, Henry E. Bodurtha, John H. Reed, James F. Barry.

Town Clerk and Treasurer.—1855, Alfred Flower; 1856, Ashbel Sykes; 1857, Joel J. Bailey; 1858, Ashbel Sykes; 1859, Josiah Johnson; 1860-64, Ashbel Sykes; 1865, Charles C .Wright; 1866-67, Samuel Flower; 1868-87, Stephen H. Bodurtha; 1888-1901, Dr. Judson W. Hastings.

For the year 1901 the full list of town officers is as follows: Town clerk and treasurer, Dr. Judson W. Hastings; selectmen, assessors, overseers of the poor and board of health, Henry E. Bodurtha, James F. Barry, John H. Reed; auditors, Fred A. Sykes, John G. Freeland; collectors, Munroe Hayward, Dennis M. Crowley, Daniel W. Corwin; constables, James M. Bean, Willis C. Campbell, Elmer E. McIntire, Frank J. Pomeroy, Albert H. Brown, Amos Gosselin, Monroe Hayward, William H. Tower, Albert E. Worthington; highway surveyors, Willis C. Campbell, Horace B. Worden, Daniel L. White; trustees Whiting Street fund, Seth N. Bennett, Oscar A. Parks; cemetery commissioners, Robert Ely, Jr., Seth N. Bennett; sinking fund commissioners, William H. Granger, Edward K. Bodurtha, Oscar A. Parks; school committee, Charles P. Davis, William H. Granger,

J. Arsene Roy, Fred A. Worthington; superintendent of schools, Francis S. Brick; library trustees, Ralph Perry, S. Newell Smith, Henry L. Tower; librarian, Emma F. Pyne.

The record of the town for patriotic action is every way creditable and worthy its New England environment. In the revolutionary war, the district sent from its few scattered families a worthy representation on the quota of Springfield. The only experience of the town as a corporation during a serious war period was in connection with the rebellion, which came upon the country almost before the people of Agawam had accustomed themselves to the routine of local self-government. But the response was no less earnest and efficient. With a population not varying much from 1,700 souls of all ages and conditions, the town sent 172 men to the war, or fully one-tenth of its population. Of this number twenty-two gave their lives, either in battle or from disease, a percentage of almost 13, and considerably higher than the average death loss of all the troops from the state. The number furnished to the Union armies was ten in excess of all calls during the war. The amount of money expended by the town reached nearly $23,000, exclusive of state aid. The women of the community were in no sense less devoted than their husbands and brothers to the great cause of national unity. A soldiers' relief society was formed in October, 1861, and until the close of the struggle weekly meetings were held at which lint, bandages, underclothing and various useful articles for the soldiers were made and sent to the front; while the society also contributed about $1,000 in money for the same noble cause.

Argriculture has ever been the principal industry of Agawam. The soil is fertile, especially in the extensive meadows bordering the Connecticut river, and yields generously the grains, vegetables and fruits adapted to the climate. Dairying is also pursued quite extensively, the various farm products finding ready sale in Springfield markets. As a result most of the farmers are prosperous, the evidences of which are shown in their well-kept buildings and attractive fields. This prosperity is generously distributed. There are few large farms; none extremely large. Most of the holdings are of moderate

extent, and in consequence utilized to the best advantage by their owners, so that in the more fertile portions of the town there is very little "unimproved" land.

In this connection it may be noted that the only organized society in the town, at present, is a prosperous grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, known as Agawam grange, No. 151, of which H. Preston Worden is master, Mrs. Carrie L. Hayward, secretary, and Miss Nellie Campbell, treasurer.

The manufacturing interests of Agawam began, as in so many other early settlements, with the primitive saw mill—a necessity in every community which sought to pass the "log-house" stage of its development. In 1665 a grant was made unto Samuel Mashfield, Thomas Noble, Thomas Miller and Elizur Holyoke, which in addition to permission for "ye setting up of a saw mill on a brook below Ensign Cooper's farm, over Agawam river," conveyed forty acres of land, "where they shall choose it, near the place where the mill shall stand, not prejudicing any of ye inhabitants' property on the highway," also "thirty acres of meadow within two or three miles of ye place, where they shall find it most convenient for their use; . . . and they are not to be restrained of the liberty of the commons for all sorts of timber for their use for sawing or otherwise." This was certainly generous encouragement for the "infant industry," and there seems no doubt that the mill was built and put in operation by the first of April, 1666, as required by the terms of the grant. Other saw mills, grist mills, blacksmith shops, with one or two brick yards probably comprised the range of the district's manufacturing interests for the first century and a half after the original grants were made.

During or about the year 1810 the first steps were taken for the manufacture of both cotton and woolen goods in a small way. In the former, one Thomas Belden of Hartford associated himself with four Agawam men—Amos Ambrose, Jonathan Worthington, John Norman, and Elijah Porter—and built a small mill on the power formerly occupied by a saw mill in the south part of the town, near the mouth of Three-mile brook. As was then much the custom, the yarn was spun at the mill and sent out

Old house, South Agawam

among the women of the vicinity to be woven on hand looms. The business was continued intermittently, but not with marked success, until 1825, when the mill was closed. It was reopened in 1832 by Leonard & Parmenter, then woolen manufacturers at Agawam Center, by whom it was run for two years more, when the plant was abandoned and the business removed. This is said to have been the first cotton mill of any description started in Western Massachusetts.

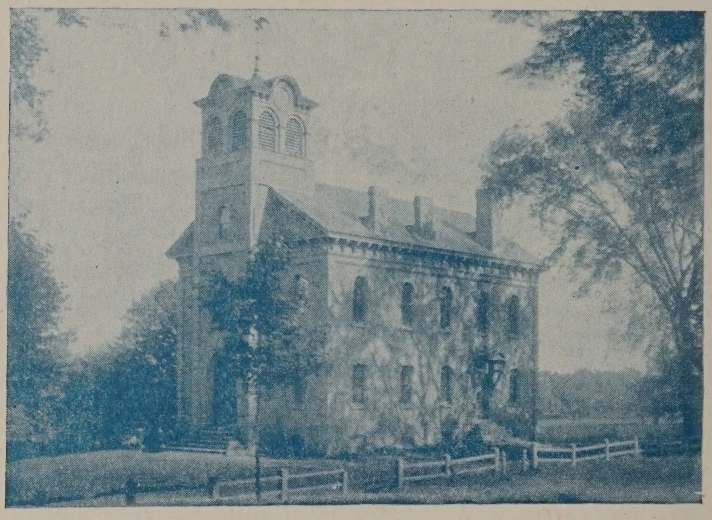
The first woolen manufactory in Agawam was a small mill for carding and fulling, built very soon after the cotton mill, by Justus and Calvin Bedortha. The proprietors did custom work only until the breaking out of the war of 1812, when they took up the manufacture of broadcloths; but the business declined after the close of the war, when the importation of foreign-made goods was resumed. In 1840, after several changes had been made in the proprietorship, Norton, Bedortha & Co., became the owners, rebuilt and enlarged the mill, and made a success of custom work. Fifteen years later—May 12, 1857—the present Agawam company was organized, with a capital stock of $10,000. Stockinet manufacture was taken up, and proved extremely successful during the civil war. In 1875 the original wooden mill was supplemented by a fine brick building. The capital stock is now $50,000, and the company is officered by Samuel Pyne, president and agent; Fred A. Sykes, treasurer.

About 1840 Lyman Whitman took up the manufacture of wall paper, occupying the old cotton mill building, and continued in the industry for some ten years. In 1872 the Worthy Paper company was organized and built a high-grade paper mill at Mittineague, using power obtained from the Agawam river. For thirty years this mill has maintained a first-class reputation for the best quality of linen and ledger papers. While the nominal capitalization has remained unchanged, the buildings have been enlarged from time to time, and improved machinery has been substituted whenever available, so that the capacity has been materially enlarged. Charles Southworth is the president, and Edgar S. Bliss, treasurer and manager.

The business of gin and whiskey manufacture carried on by the H. Porter company, with Edson W. Lindsey as manager,

originated more than a century ago, when E. Porter established a plant on or near the present site in the south part of the town, and began the industry of distilling peppermint. Later the product was changed to potato whiskey, while for very many years the name of the town was a household word through the extensive use of "Agawam gin."

The matter of education has always received practical attention in Agawam, the money and care of the residents having been given ungrudgingly for the promotion of schools, satisfactory in number and of the best quality. The educational work has, how-



School Building—Feeding Hills

ever, been confined to the district and graded schools, no high school or academic institution having been organized in the town. An important step in relation to school buildings was taken in 1874, when as the result of some controversy over the location of a town hall it was voted to erect buildings for the accomodation of the higher school grades at Agawam Center and at Feeding Hills, each to have a large hall in the upper story for the accommodation of town meetings and other public gatherings. These were completed during the following year, and more

recently a handsome brick school building has been erected at Mittineague, so that the scholars in all portions of the town have good accommodations in these central buildings and the ungraded schools conveniently located in the more sparsely settled sections. Some fifteen teachers are employed, under the direction of a superintendent and the school committee of the town.

A free public library was organized in 1890, and has now over 2,000 volumes of well-selected books. The advantages of the library are free to all residents of the town over twelve years of age, and a weekly delivery of books is made at the three principal villages, giving equal facilities to all inhabitants.

For forty years after the first grants were made to settlers in the Agawam district, the people there residing were obliged to cross both the Agawam and the Connecticut rivers in order to attend church; and, there being neither bridges nor adequate boats, we must admire the strength of the religious spirit which kept these people faithful to their principles. The dangers encountered are well illustrated by the accident to the Bedortha family, three of whose members—Reice, John, and the wife of Joseph—were drowned in the Connecticut in 1683 by the overturning of the boat. One has but to recall this incident with the tragic deaths of Longmeadow settlers a few years earlier, also on their way to the Springfield church, to realize something of the meaning of religious fidelity in those early days.

In 1695 the thirty-two families residing west of the Connecticut river, numbering more than 200 members, took steps to secure recognition as a separate parish, and in 1698 a church was formed in what later became the town of West Springfield. With this the Agawam families affiliated, on account of its convenience, and with it they remained identified until 1757, when the territory now comprising the town of Agawam was set off as the sixth parish of Springfield. This parish at that time comprised about seventy five families. The inhabitants were called together in precinct meeting February 2, 1758, and after electing Capt. Samuel Mirick as moderator and Moses Leonard as clerk, voted to raise £17 "in order to have the gospel preached among us here." About a year later it was voted to build a meeting

house "in the center of the present inhabitants, or as near as may be," and a committee was appointed to determine the location. In January, 1760, it was voted to build "at ye head of the first branch beyond Ensign Reuben Leonard's"—a location now pointed out at a fork of the roads on the edge of the plain between Agawam and Feeding Hills villages. The meeting house was erected in the same year, and so far completed that it could be used for holding services. The church was organized on the 10th of November, 1762, and a week later Rev. Sylvanus Griswold was ordained and installed as the first pastor of the Sixth church of Springfield. In 1774, when the town of West Springfield was created, the title was changed to the Second church of West Springfield. The church was organized with nine members in addition to the pastor-elect,—Samuel Merrick, Joseph Bodurtha, Benjamin Leonard, John Leonard, Reuben Leonard, Abel Leonard, Joseph Selden, Joseph Flower, and Jonathan Bodurtha. Twenty others united by letter on the 28th of the same month, some of the number being Baptists, each denomination agreeing to respect the convictions of the other regarding baptism, and other points of difference in belief and customs.

The pastorate of Rev. Mr. Griswold extended over fifty-seven years until his death in 1819, and covered a variety of experiences in connection with the church work. Although his salary was small, being about $225 a year, with use of a tract of forty acres of land, the stress of the revolutionary war made its payment difficult, and it is recorded that the pastor released his people from their obligations to him. But other difficulties and perplexities arose, among which it is probable that a want of harmony betwen the sections was a factor, so that about the year 1800 the precinct was again divided, Feeding Hills and Agawam proper being made separate parishes. The former retained the original name and the church building, which was taken down, removed to the village and re-erected, but was left in an unfinished state for twenty years. This stucture, by the way, had a varied experience. For the first ten years it was used by the mixed congregation of Congregationalists and Baptists, and after the organization of a separate Baptist church the two

bodies jointly used the same house of worship. In 1802 a Methodist society was organized, and they also used the same building. It was neatly finished in 1821, and the joint occupancy continued until the Congregationalists withdrew in 1834 and built their present house of worship, which was enlarged in 1857, and has since undergone considerable change. In 1855, at the incorporation of the town the church name was changed to "First Congregational Church of Agawam."

Following the death of Rev. Mr. Griswold, the church was without a pastor until 1821, when Rev. Reuben Hazen was ordained, and for nine years served the Feeding Hills church as well as that at Agawam, dividing his time in the pastoral work, and preaching in the two pulpits on alternate Sabbaths. He resigned the pastorate at Feeding Hills in 1830 to devote himself to the Agawam parish. His successors at the First church have been: Rev. Harvey Smith, August 11, 1830, to June, 1833; Rev. Horatio J. Lombard, June 8, 1834, to 1836; Rev. Calvin Foote, December 21, 1836, to September 23, 1839; Rev. Dillon Williams, June 30, 1841, to May 28, 1848; Rev. Stephen D. Ward, October, 1853, until his death, June 11, 1858; Rev. M. Harrington, 1859-60; Rev. William M. Birchard, 1860-63; Rev. Lewis Grout, May 14, 1864, to October 1, 1865; Rev. Charles S. Sylvester, May 13, 1866, to April, 1879; Rev. A. W. Field, 1879-82; Rev. Thomas M. Price, 1883-6; Rev. Jasper P. Harvey, 1887-9; Rev. Egbert N. Munroe, 1889-90; Rev. Frank L. Garfield, the present pastor, settled in 1892.

The Second Congregational church of Agawam, more commonly called the Agawam Congregational church, was created by the division of the parish during or about the year 1800, but it was not for almost twenty years that a church was organized at Agawam Center. Directly after the separation, however, the Agawam people procured the frame of a meeting house from a society at Suffield, Conn., which was erected on the common, and was adopted as a parish house, money being voted by the parish for its completion. It was some three years, however, before its dedication, after which it was used under mutual agreement by Baptists and Congregationalists, the latter having a society,

though without a church organization. Matters ran along until 1819, when Capt. Timothy Allyn, Calvin Bedortha, and Ebenezer Wyman, members of the First church in West Springfield, requested dismissal and that they might be organized into a church in Agawam. A council was held at the house of Capt. Allyn on the first day of September, to consider and act upon the matter. Rev. Richard S. Storrs of Longmeadow was the moderator. It appears from the records of this conference that not only was the Second church organized, but at the same time the church at Feeding Hills, which had become too much reduced in membership to maintain a minister, was reorganized, identical articles of faith and covenant being adopted by the two bodies, to the end that one pastor might be engaged to minister alternately to the two churches. This plan was consummated in 1821, after nearly two years of temporary pastoral supply, when Rev Reuben S. Hazen was settled as pastor of the two churches, being paid $250 annually by the Agawam church, and $190 by that at Feeding Hills. This joint pastorate continued until 1830, when Rev. Mr. Hazen resigned the Feeding Hills charge to give all of his strength and energy to the people at Agawam, where he labored faithfully until May 17, 1843, when he was dismissed.

The second pastor of the church, Rev. Ralph Perry, who came from Manchester, Conn., was ordained and installed January 3, 1844. His health failing, he was dismissed in 1846, but on recovery he was again installed near the close of the following year, and served the church faithfully and most acceptably until August 26, 1874, when a severe accident sustained at a railroad crosing in Springfield rendered him for a long time helpless. He resigned in the spring of 1875, and was succeeded by Rev. George H. Pratt of Glastonbury, Conn., who was invited October 1, 1875, to supply the church, and was settled a year later. His pastorate was successful, but was terminated in 1879. For the next twelve years no pastor was formally settled, but the officiating clergymen were Rev. Allen Hazen, D. D., February 1, 1880, to April 1, 1882; Rev. Edward E. Lamb, from December, 1882, until his death, July 21, 1883; Rev. Charles L. Tomblen, from April 1, 1884, to May 1, 1887; and Rev. F. M. Sprague,

Feeding Hills Street, Town of Agawam

from May, 1887, to October, 1891. Notwithstanding the informality of these pastorates, ninety-three members were added to the church during the twelve years. The present pastor, Rev. Walter Rice, was called December 27, 1891, and was installed February 3, 1892. During his pastorate sixty-five persons have joined the church, and its membership is now 177. The church building was fitted with a belfry and steeple in 1833, and was removed to its present site in 1845, being remodeled two years later. A chapel was built in 1868, and the main building was again remodeled, to its present form, in 1875.

The First Baptist church was organized in 1790 by certain persons of that faith who for that purpose withdrew from the First Baptist church at Westfield, by a letter dated January 9, of that year. Eleven persons subscribed to the covenant at the organization of the church, January 26, 1790—John Porter, Stephen Bodurtha, Jonathan Purchase, Earl Bancroft, Margaret Purchase, Molly Worthington, Mary Porter, Martha Purchase, Abigail Palmer, Eleanor Bodurtha, Roxana Bancroft. It appears that earlier in the history of the community a small and weak Baptist society and church had been organized, but both had long before ceased to exist, and the only positive records regarding the matter show that Rev. Edward Upham was pastor from 1740 to about 1749. On the 4th of March, 1790, the new church extended a call to Rev. Jesse Wightman, a licentiate of the First Baptist church of Groton, Conn., to become the pastor, and on the 29th of September of that year he was duly ordained. The pastorate continued until his death, September 7, 1817. So devoted was Mr. Wightman to the work of his life that long after he became unable to stand at the desk he was assisted to the pulpit, where, sitting, he would "address the assembled audience in the most fervent manner." A serious dissension in the church regarding the subject of singing occurred in 1814, and threatened the life of the church itself. Many withdrew, and observance of the communion was suspended for several months. Through the earnest efforts of the pastor the trouble was finally arranged, and an era of good feeling which began in 1815 induced a strong revival in the community.

Following the death of Rev. Mr. Wightman came a period of depression, and no pastor was settled until 1823, although the pulpit seems to have been supplied most of the time, Rev. John Grant, Rev. David Wright, Rev. B. M. Hill and others officiating. Rev. Thomas Barrett of Sharon, Mass., was called to the pastorate in 1823, accepted, and served faithfully for nearly seven years until his resignation in 1829. During this time a remarkable religious revival took place, and with it a revival in the prospects of the church and society. In 1826 an old member of the church, Asa Button, died and left a house and several acres of land as a parsonage, of which Mr. Barrett, at his request, took immediate possession. Soon after the subject of a meeting house began to be agitated. For ten years meetings were held at the houses of members or at school houses, and afterward the Baptists held an interest in the parish house, which was also occupied by the Congregationalists. In February, 1830, it was voted to erect a building of their own, their interest in the parish house being disposed of to the Congregationalists for $600. The completed structure was dedicated October 20 of the same year, Rev. Gustavus Davis, D. D., of Hartford, Conn., preaching the sermon. A series of brief pastorates followed, these being the names of the incumbents: Rev. Erastus Andrews, 1830-31; Rev. John W. McDonald, 1831-5; Rev. Pierpont Brockett, 1835-6; Rev. Matthew Batchelder, 1837-40; Rev. William A. Smith, 1840-41; Rev. Lester Lewis, 1841-6; Rev. John Cook, 1847; Rev. Asa A. Robinson, 1848-52; Rev. Thomas Dowling, 1852-4; Rev. Addison Parker, 1855-64, when he died; Rev. George Colesworthy, 1865-9; Rev. E. P. Bond, 1870-73; Rev. A. H. Simons, 1874-83; Rev. H. M. Heywood, 1884-9; Rev. S. A. Read, 1889-1899. Rev. Frederic S. Boody is the present pastor. The location of the parsonage was changed about the year 1865, when the old parsonage was sold and the house purchased by Rev. Mr. Parker during his pastorate, located near the church, was taken in its stead. In 1883 the church building was extensively repaired and improved; and as an illustration of the spirit of Christian fellowship between the denominations, it may be mentioned that during the repairs the Baptists were offered and accepted the use

of the Congregational church, and when the repaired church was reopened with appropriate services, both congregations united in the exercises.

A Methodist Episcopal church was established at Feeding Hills as early as 1802, but the first forty years of its existence were uneventful, and no records have been preserved. The preaching during this time was doubtless principally by circuit riders and casual supply. The church was reorganized in 1844, and in 1851 a small, plain church building was erected. With some improvements this served until 1900, when a small but neat church building was completed and dedicated. In 1840 the New England Methodist Episcopal conference built a small church in the south part of the town, where services were held for a few years with some regularity by Rev. David Taylor, a licentiate who lived in the vicinity. No church was organized in that portion of the town. The pastors who have been regularly assigned to Methodist pulpits in what is now the town of Agawam, so far as can be ascertained, (serving other parishes also in some cases,) is as follows: Rev. Amasa Taylor, 1836-7; Rev. William Taylor, 1838-9; Rev. Asa Niles, 1840; Rev. John Cadwell, 1841; Rev. David L. Winslow and Rev. Albert A. Cook, 1842; Rev. William Fleming, 1843; Rev. Homer Clark, 1844; Rev. George W. Greene, 1845; Rev. Ephraim Scott, 1846; Rev. George W. Greene, 1847-50; Rev. W. A. Clapp, 1850; Rev. Ephraim Scott, 1851-2; Rev. George W. Greene, 1852-3; Rev. John Moore, 1853; Rev. D. Todd, 1854; Rev. R. Mitchell, 1855; Rev. Daniel Wait, 1856-7; Rev. John Cadwell, 1858; Rev. John Moore, 1859; Rev. Osman W. Adams, 1861; Rev. N. J. Merrill, 1868; Rev. J. H. Lord, 1871; Rev. N. J. Merrill, 1873-4; Rev. A. Caldwell, 1875; Rev. Jonathan Neal, 1878-80; Rev. S. L. Rodgers, 1881-2; Rev. F. T. George, 1883-4; Rev. H. W. Adams, 1885-6; Rev. A. C. Godfrey, 1887-8; Rev. William Ferguson, 1889; Rev. S. L. Rodgers, 1890-91; Rev. Charles Nicklin, 1892-4; Rev. H. G. Buckingham, 1900-01.

St. William's Roman Catholic church, located in the Agawam portion of the village of Mittineague, affords religious privileges for the French-speaking Catholic people of the locality. The first steps toward the formation of a congregation

there were taken March 6, 1873, when vesper service was held by Rev. Louis Gagnier of Springfield. Later a fine building site was secured, 150 by 175 feet in size, on which, in 1876, the church of St. William was erected. Until 1883 Father Gagnier conducted this branch as a mission of St. Joseph's church of Springfield; but at that time it was erected into the dignity of a parish, with the churches in Longmeadow and East Longmeadow as missions. Rev. E. Pelletier was the first resident pastor, serving until his promotion to a pastorate in Chicopee in 1885. He was succeeded by Rev. J. E. Campeau, under whom a house was bought on Front street as a parish presbytery. Rev. J. H. A. Biron succeeded to the pastorate in 1888, and died in 1890. During the last year of his incumbency Revs. J. O. Sylvian and J. C. Allard served as his assistants. Rev. Frederick Bonneville was his successor, rendering good service from 1890 to 1893 when promoted to a larger parish in Chicopee. Rev. Humphrey Wren, with Rev. P. J. Hackett as assistant, served for six months to January 1, 1894, when Rev. Joseph M. A. Genest, the present incumbent, was transferred from Southbridge to take charge of the parish. He at once set about the improvement of the parish property, and organized a parochial school of some fifty members, for which school-rooms were provided in the basement of the church.

Agawam is one of the few agricultural towns in the state showing a steady growth in valuation and population during the past half century. At the time of incorporation it had in round numbers 1,500 inhabitants. According to the national census reports the number had increased to 1,698 in 1860, to 2,001 in 1870, to 2,216 in 1880, 2,352 in 1890, and to 2,536 in 1900.

CHAPTER XIX

THE TOWN OF HAMPDEN

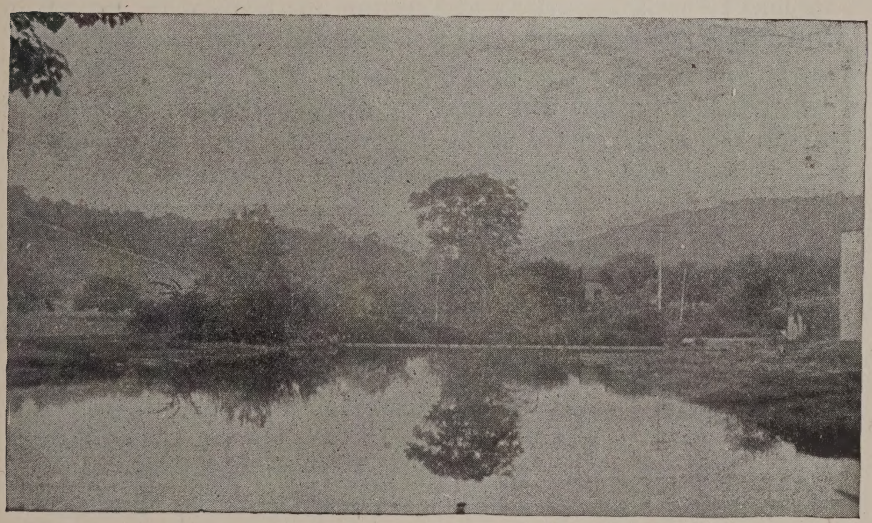
Almost a hundred years after the colony at Springfield was founded settlements were first made on that part of the town lands which were known as the "outward commons," on the east. Nearly half a century before settlement was begun the proprietors of the mother town had been compelled to survey and allot the common lands on the east, under penalty of forfeiture to the crown; and while the town thus saved the title no attempt at improvement was made until 1730, when Nathaniel Hitchcock of Springfield became the pioneer of what now is Wilbraham and Hampden.

In 1741 the north part of this territory was set off as the "Fourth Precinct of Springfield," not having the character and full powers of a town jurisdiction, but as a parish settlement for the separate maintenance of religious worship, for the good people here had truly represented that they were at great inconvenience in being compelled to journey ten long miles to worship in the meeting house at the old mother settlement in Springfield. At that time there had been no permanent settlement in what now is Hampden, but very soon afterward improvements began to extend southward toward the Connecticut line. In 1763 Wilbraham took another advance step in civil history and was set off from Springfield with full town powers, except in the election of a separate representative to the general court.

Both tradition and authenticated records inform us that in 1741 Stephen Stebbins left his former home in Longmeadow and established himself and family on the north bank of the Scantic, within what now is Hampden. Following closely afterward there

came others, all settling along the same stream, on both sides, and in the course of a few more years a scattered yet well defined colony was established here. Rev. Edward A. Chase in a published historical address gives us reliable information concerning the first settlers in Hampden, hence we have recourse to his writings.

According to Mr. Chase, pioneer Stebbins located where Mortimer Pease now (1885) lives, while Aaron Stebbins, brother of the pioneer, settled north of him, "just north of the red school house." Paul Langdon, who brought the first four-



Hampden—the stream in the valley

wheeled wagon into the town, settled south of Stephen Stebbins on the farm occupied in 1885 by Edward Bartlett. This farm was "overplus land," and was secured by Langdon through the aid of Mr. Pynchon. Abner Chapin came from Chicopee and settled on the south side of the Scantic. Lewis Langdon, son of Paul, built the first saw mill in 1750. William King settled on the land where now stands the Congregational church. The premises afterward passed into the hands of Robert Sessions. William Stacy settled on the mountain south of the Scantic,

where Albert Lee now (1885) lives. Moses Stebbins, Comfort Chaffee, Jabez Hendrick, Daniel Carpenter, Henry Badger, Isaac Morris, Rowland Crocker, Benjamin Skinner and Ezekiel Russell also were among the early settlers in the South parish, and were located on the hills and in the valleys bordering on the river. Robert Sessions, the pioneer head of one of the most prominent families of South Wilbraham in later years, settled in the town in 1781.

Within a quarter of a century after the pioneer led the way for civilized white settlement in this part of the mother town, we find a flourishing colony had sprung up; lands were cleared and many fine farms had been opened for cultivation. Then the settlers sought to establish regular religious services in their own community, but their first application to be set off and established as a separate parish met with the same fate as did the petitions of Wilbraham to Springfield in earlier years. In 1765 the inhabitants of the new settlement asked for money to pay for the services of a minister during the next winter, but the request was refused. In 1767 they sought to have preaching among them at their own cost, but in this also they were unsuccessful.

In 1772, Asa Chaffee, son of Joseph, on behalf of the inhabitants of the south part of Wilbraham, presented a petition asking that his people be set off as a separate town; but this request, too, was denied, and it was not until 1778, after several unsuccessful attempts, that the town voted to establish the South parish. However, in 1780 this vote was reconsidered, and the next year the inhabitants sought relief at the hands of the general court. In the meantime the people of the north part had become more considerate of the interests of their townsmen in the south locality, and in December, 1781, voted to appoint a committee from out of the town to consider the method of dividing the territory into parishes. This committee comprised John Hale, Luke Bliss and William Pynchon, junior, whose report, dated Springfield, February 21, 1782, in part said:

"It is the united opinion of the committee and which they conceive will best accommodate the inhabitants of the several

parts of the town, that it be divided into two parishes, by the name of the North and South Parishes, by a line coinciding with the south line of the lot whereon Nathaniel Bliss, deceased, lived, from the westward bound of said town to the Monson line:— (with this exception) that the inhabitants of said town living on the west from the top of the mountain to the south side of Lieut. Thomas Merrick's lot to the westward bounds of said town, with their estates, be annexed to the North parish, and that the inhabitants living east from the top of the mountain from the south side of said Bliss' lot north to the south side of the lot originally laid out to Jonathan Taylor's estate to Monson line, be annexed to the South parish, with their estates,'' etc., reserving to the inhabitants along the boundary the privilege of selecting the parish to which they would prefer to belong and pay ''rates.''

In accordance with this division, an act of the general court, passed June 20, 1782, created the North and South parishes of Wilbraham, making Thomas Merrick and his lands a part of the North parish, and David Wood, Jesse Carpenter and Jonah Beebe and their lands a part of the South parish; and also providing that John Bliss, Esq., issue his warrant to some principal inhabitants in each parish warning them to meet and choose such officers as ''may be necessary to manage the affairs of the said parishes.''

The purpose of the new parish creation was the spiritual welfare of the people in the south part of Wilbraham, that they might establish and maintain a separate church and such local government as they were authorized to set up was for the especial object of building a house of worship and paying the expense of a minister, rather than the conduct of civil affairs in the precinct. The early history of the parish was part and parcel with the history of the church, and was continued as long as the custom prevailed of supporting religious worship at the public or parish expense. During the latter part of the eighteenth century the South parish had become well settled with people whose religious belief and form of worship was not in accord with the doctrine of the precinct church, and the estab-

lishment of other societies led to the ultimate abandonment of the system of public support of the "orthodox" church, hence the gradual decline in authority of the "committee of the parish" and other officers who were from time to time chosen to administer its affairs. After the separation of church and civil governments in the North and South parishes, both societies supported themselves as church bodies are now maintained, and thereafter the name South parish was changed and became South Wilbraham. It was so known until March 28, 1878, when the territory of the South parish, South Wilbraham, was regularly incorporated into a town by the name of Hampden.

The old South parish records serve to throw some light on the early history of the region, and likewise furnish us the names of many settlers in addition to those previously mentioned, yet for further detail of early life and reminiscences in this locality, the reader may have recourse to the history of Wilbraham, the mother town, for there was no complete separation until within a comparatively recent date. The first treasurer in the South parish was Colonel John Bliss, who served from 1782 to 1784, when he was succeeded by David Burt. The records also give us the names of Capt. Paul Langdon and Lieut. Samuel Sexton, who served during the revolution and there gained their military titles, as also did Col. Bliss. From the same source we obtain the names of Enoch Burt, Moses Stebbins, junior, Deacon John Hitchcock, and Elizur Tillotson, junior, the latter one of the earliest tavern keepers in the South parish, and whose application for license in 1807 was refused on the ground that his public house was not a benefit to the public. The remonstrance against Mr. Tillotson's petition for a license was signed by John Bliss, Robert Sessions, Confort Chaffee, jun., William Clark, Enos Clark, Jonathan Flynt, Levi Flynt, Joseph Morris, Edward Morris, David Burt, Noah Sexton, William Clark, Asa Isham, Samuel Sexton, Walter Shaw, Jared Case, William Wood, Lemuel Jones, Charles Sessions and Nathaniel B. Chaffee.

During the period of the last French and English wars, and also during the revolution, Hampden under its original name gained an enviable prominence, and by reference to the chapter

relating to Wilbraham, there may be found the names of those of the South parish who took part in those memorable contests. Robert Sessions, who came into the town in 1781, was one of the famous "Boston Tea Party," and is entitled to mention in these pages. Moreover, he was the progenitor of one of the most prominent families in the town, and one whose representatives in all subsequent generations have been active factors for good in the civil, ecclesiastical and industrial history of the town.

From all which is stated on preceding pages it must be seen that settlement in the South parish was accomplished rapidly after the beginning was made by pioneer Stebbins and his followers. Indeed, it is a matter of unwritten history, yet worthy of mention, that the lands of the South parish were found to be more fertile and accessible and equally desirable for farming purposes as those of the North parish, and, moreover, the southern region did not appear to have been subject to the unequal and questionable subdivision of lands which embarrassed the settlers on the first allotted tracts of the outward commons. The land surface here is broken with high hills, in localities approaching the magnitude of mountains, yet, comparatively, there is little waste land; and few indeed are the areas which are unfit for cultivation.

Organization and Civil History.—In the early part of this chapter the writer has traced something of the civil history of the old South parish in connection with the general events of settlement and growth. As has been stated, the imperfect and limited parish organization was effected in 1782, which, although sufficient for the time, gave no rights to its inhabitants outside of church government, and even had the effect to prejudice the parish in the distribution of civil offices in the town at large. However, after the disappearance of the parish character and the rise of South Wilbraham, the latter region furnished the mother town some of the best material ever called into office in the jurisdiction, and also sent into public life some of the strongest men the county has produced; and to-day the sons and descendants of South Wilbraham and Hampden are found among the foremost professional and business men of the county seat, as well as in many other commercial centers.

The act of the legislature creating the town was passed March 28, 1878. The new jurisdiction comprised, substantially, all which previously had been known as South Wilbraham, originally the old South parish. The first town meeting was held April 8, 1878, and was warned by S. C. Spellman, justice of the peace. William R. Sessions was chosen moderator, and the following officers were elected: William R. Sessions, Freeman W. Dickinson, Patrick E. Wall, selectmen; Sumner Smith, town clerk and treasurer; S. M. Stanton, Andrew Beebe, John W. Isham, assessors; A. B. Newell, John N. Isham, Moses H. Warner, school committee.

The succession of selectmen and town clerks is as follows:

Selectmen.—1878-80, William R. Sessions, Freeman W. Dickinson, Patrick E. Wall; 1881, Decius Beebe, Frank S. Smith, Solomon C. Spellman; 1882, William R. Sessions, Decius Beebe, Andrew Beebe; 1883-4, Decius Beebe, Andrew Beebe, Lyman Smith; 1885-6, Decius Beebe, Dr. George T. Ballard, Charles H. Burleigh; 1887, William R. Sessions, E. H. Temple, William Leach; 1888, Decius Beebe, George T. Ballard, Charles H. Burleigh; 1889, George T. Ballard, David R. McCray, John N. Isham; 1890, George T. Ballard, David R. McCray, Charles H. Burleigh; 1891, Sumner Smith, S. P. Chapin, John Kenworthy; 1892, George T. Ballard, Charles H. Burleigh, John Bartlett; 1893, George T. Ballard, Charles H. Burleigh, Alpheus Peck; 1894, Mortimer Pease, Charles H. Burleigh, N. M. Carew; 1895-97, Mortimer Pease, Sumner Smith, N. M. Carew; 1898-99, Mortimer Pease, N. M. Carew, William J. Sessions; 1900, C. N. Whitaker, N. M. Carew, William S. Hunt; 1901, George T. Ballard, N. M. Carew, William S. Hunt.

Town Clerks.—Sumner Smith, 1878-89; John Q. Adams, 1890-92; J. W. Mulroney, 1893; John Q. Adams, 1894-98; William M. Pease, 1899, resigned December 10, 1900, and John Q. Adams appointed to fill the vacancy; John Q. Adams, 1901—now in office.

Town Officers, 1901.—Dr. George T. Ballard (chairman), Nelson M. Carew, William S. Hunt, selectmen, overseers of the poor and board of health; John Q. Adams, town clerk and

treasurer; George A. Chapin, auditor; Charles I. Burleigh, John J. Flynn, George C. Butterworth, assessors; William Leach, Erwin H. Temple, Ernest W. Howlett, highway commissioners; Calvin Stebbins, Lyman Smith, John N. Isham, cemetery commissioners; Moses H. Warren, D. Lincoln McCray, school committee; Alonzo B. Newell, Mrs. Charles C. Chaffee, Stella Day, trustees Hampden free public library; Mrs. John Q. Adams, librarian; Epaphro A. Day, Sumner Smith, justices of the peace.

The census reports show the fluctuations of population in Hampden as follows: 1880, 958; 1885, 868; 1890, 831; 1895, 743; 1900, 782.

Much of the interesting early history of Hampden was made while the town formed a part of Wilbraham, yet it is a fact that the little offshoot settlement down in the south part of the older jurisdiction, located mainly on Scantic brook and bordering on the Connecticut line, from the early years of the century to the time of the division in 1878, was the most busy, progressive and prosperous portion of the whole region; and much surprise often has been expressed that Hampden's people did not earlier procure an act of incorporation.

Since the days of pioneership, Hampden has been known as an agricultural town, producing well in answer to the proper and persistent efforts of the husbandman. Agricultural products generally, with few special crops, are raised, yet for a time tobacco was grown here with fair success.

Villages and Hamlets.—When the inhabitants of this locality in old Wilbraham were granted a parish district, and after they had established their meeting house in the most central part of the settlement, their trading center became known as South Wilbraham; and it was so called until after the creation of the new town, when the name was changed to Hampden. The church was the first institution to be established, then the school, and afterward various business interests and a post-office. The latter was opened about 1826, Dudley B. Post being the first postmaster, followed in later years by Samuel Beebe, Solomon C. Spellman, William Spellman, Horton Hendrick and Staunton M. Sullivan, in the order mentioned. The present postmaster,

Mathias Casey, was appointed during the Cleveland administration and has since been continued in office, he being a faithful public servant, performing his duties to the entire satisfaction of the townspeople.

South Wilbraham first began to attract attention as a manufacturing center soon after 1840, when Sumner Sessions, a man of means, influence and public spirit, erected the first woolen mill and leased it to Bradford & Scripter, but long before this time the locality enjoyed a certain moderate prominence as a producing center. Let us refer briefly to some of these old-time interests. According to recognized authority, Lewis Langdon, in 1772, built a saw mill on the Scantic, about a quarter of a mile below the site of the Hampden woolen mills, and a few years later started a grist mill further down the brook. Subsequent owners of similar industries were Benanuel Leach, David Burt, and also a Mr. Wright, that of the latter being on the middle branch. Early in the last century, a Mr. Bacon came over from Brimfield and built a grist mill on the site of the Hampden woolen mill, but soon sold out to Christopher Langdon. Later owners of this mill and privilege were Jacob Wood, Hubbard Arnold and William Mosely, the latter adding a saw mill to the enterprise. The buildings were eventually burned and a wrapping paper mill was erected on the site.

Another early saw mill proprietor was Charles Sessions, whose plant was located where afterward was built the Lacousic woolen mills. Caleb Stebbins, David Burt and Milton Burt also were owners of grist or saw mills, the latter at one time having both. Then, there were the old-time fulling, cloth and carding mills which once did a flourishing business on the Scantic. One of the earliest of these was that run many years ago by Walter Burt, and another was that of Jonathan Flint, which stood just below the village bridge. Beriah Smith and his brothers bought out Flint and carried on an extensive business in cloth dressing. A short distance below the Smith works one Roper at one time had a clover cleaning mill, and in connection therewith made chains for farm use. Paul Langdon and William King, both of whom were conspicuous figures in early

South Wilbraham history, at one time conducted potasheries in the town. Daniel and Joseph Chaffee and a Mr. West appear to have been the early tanners in this locality when such industries could be carried on with a fair degree of success; and much of their product was sold to the shoe factories which once gave Wales a special prominence in the county.

In speaking of the old-time business interests some mention must be made of the once famous plow works which Marcus Beebe established along during the 'fifties. Through his brothers (all of whom were sons of "Squire" Beebe) who were in business in the southern states, Mr. Beebe found a profitable market in that region, and for several years before the war of 1861-5 he carried on an extensive works here. The war, however, cut off his market and soon afterward the business was discontinued. Sometime before this paper making was an industry of considerable importance in the town, but all traces of the works now have disappeared and the proprietors are almost forgotten.

As we have stated, in 1843 Sumner Sessions built the first woolen mill in the town, and rented it to Bradford & Scripter, who began manufacturing in 1844, with one set of machinery and turning out a good quality of satinets. Levi Bradford's connection with the concern was brief and on his retirement in 1847, the plant was operated by Luther E. Sage, William V. Sessions and Samuel Beebe, as partners, and they, in turn, were succeeded by the firm of Scripter, Sage & Co. Under them the capacity of the works was increased and tweeds, cassimeres and doeskins were added to the output. In 1856 the business passed under control of the South Wilbraham Manufacturing Co., incorporated with $200,000 capital, and thereafter the output was further increased. Later on the Lacousic Woolen Mill company succeeded the corporate company, and the business was conducted by Charles Parsons, who failed, then by Brown & Chapman, and still later by Hinsdale Smith under the immediate control of his son. The works were burned about eight or ten years ago.

Next in order among large factories was the so-called Hampden woolen mills, started by Eleazer Scripter in 1858, as the

Ravine mill. The property afterward passed to Luther Sage, who did a heavy business throughout the war, and who in 1867 or '68 built a much larger factory. Later on the plant was carried on by outside proprietors, nearly all having indifferent success until the present management acquired control. It now is rented to various parties and is operated as the Hampden Mills company.

About 1865 the Scantic Woolen Mill company, in which Luther Sage was the moving spirit, erected a building and engaged in the manufacture of fancy cassimeres for a period of ten years. In 1875 Judson Leonard became proprietor, contiued business and ultimately failed, and then was succeeded by Kenworthy Bros. Still later the plant came to the present proprietor, John Kenworthy, who operates it with success as a yarn, blanket and cloth mills. In connection with the woolen industries of earlier years, Mortimer Pease for some time operated a mill in preparing for re-carding the waste material of the larger factories.

Although the village has had at least one good store for almost a century, the names of the earliest proprietors are not accurately recalled by our old residents. Going back fifty or sixty years ago, Solomon C. and William R. Spellman were tradesmen in the village and carried a large business. In later years in mercantile pursuits there may be recalled the names of Shaw and Chapman, John C. Vinica, Russell Day & Co., C. I. Burleigh & Co., Mr. Fuller, Sumner Smith, Eldridge Vinica, Mc Carty Bros., Mrs. Barnes and A. F. Ballard.

The present business interests may be noted about as follows: D. F. Powers, blacksmith; Bernard Woodruff, boot and shoe maker; Frank Crocker, carpenter; Edward Hitchcock, cider maker; Edward P. Lyons, coal dealer; C. C. Chaffee, flour and grain dealer; Drs. George T. Ballard and H. Warner, physicians; Mathias Casey and Sumner Smith, general merchants; M. P. Carmody, grist and saw mills; Mrs. E. G. Vinica and J. Ryan, grocers; Mrs. P. C. Allen, propr., Allen house; Mrs. D. C. West, propr., Hampden inn; W. S. Hunt, provision dealer; J. A. Ames, stoves and tinwares; John Q. Adams, wheelwright; the Hampden Mills Co., and John Kenworthy, woolen goods manufacturers.

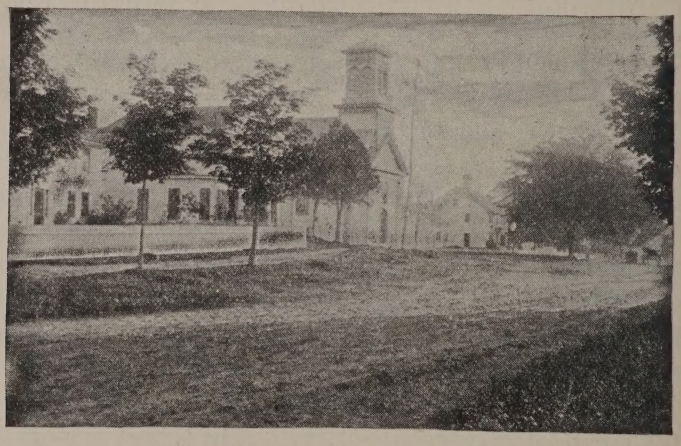
Schools.—In the early history of this part of Wilbraham we learn that little real attention was given to the establishment of public schools, except as the inhabitants of the South parish made provision for the instruction of their youth after their church was permanently founded. When the South parish was created the subject of schools received more attention and the territory was made to constitute districts under the general town system. Tradition, with some meagre records, inform us that among the settlers here were several persons who taught early schools, among the number being Moses and Stephen Stebbins, Samuel Beebe, Samuel Henry, Marcus Cady, Sally Wilcox, Betsey Sessions, Lydia Ames and others whose names at this time are not recalled.

When Hampden was incorporated as a separate town, the territory was divided into four districts, and ample provision was made for the maintenance of a school in each. In subsequent years the districts were occasionally remodeled, and now the town has five districts with a good school in each. According to the recent school census Hampden has 88 children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, and for their instruction five teachers are employed. There is annually raised by tax in the town the sum of about $1,400 for the schools; about $185 are expended in carrying pupils to and from school, and the total amount paid each year for all school purposes is about $1,800. Hampden receives annually nearly $500 of the public school moneys.

Soon after 1840 a number of public spirited men in this part of Wilbraham perfected a plan for the establishment of a school of higher grade than that attained under the town system, and to that end they devoted their energies until old Hampden academy was founded in 1844. The moneys necessary for this institution were raised by popular subscription and almost wholly within what now is Hampden. The school was opened with George Brooks in charge and soon found favor with the townsfolk, drawing pupils from the North Wilbraham locality and also from adjoining towns on the east and west. In the course of time, however, the increasing efficiency of the public schools, with grammar and high schools as provided for by law, worked

adversely to the interests of the private institution and led to its abandonment; but it survived many others of its class and was maintained until within a comparatively recent period. The instuctors following principal Brooks were E. J. Howe, Charles Marsh, Mr. Bliss, Alonzo B. Newell and perhaps others.

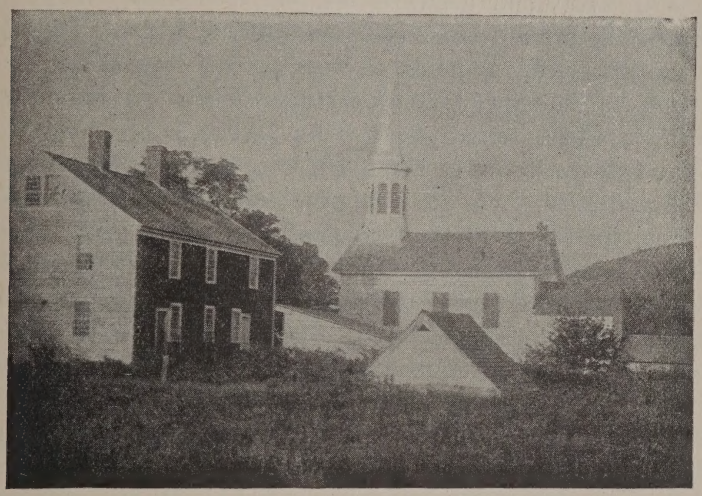
Churches.—The Congegational church—the mother church—in South Wilbraham and Hampden, had its inception in the primitive meetings held at the houses of the settlers in this part of the town soon after the pioneers entered into the region. In the course of a few more years the inhabitants sought to establish regular preaching services, but the people of the northern local-



Congregational Church, Hampden

ity would not consent to a separation from the old church. At last in 1782 the South parish was duly constituted, and immediately thereafter an informal society for worship was formed; a plain, rough meeting house was erected in 1783, and in 1785 the church organization was perfected. For the next three years the church had no settled pastor, the first regular incumbent of that office having been Rev. Moses Warren, whose service began September 3, 1788, at which time there were 62 communicating members. Mr. Warren's connection with the pastorate continued until his death, February 19, 1829, and constituted a mem-

orable period in the history of the church. The later pastors were Lucius W. Clark, installed December 9, 1829; James A. Hazen, January 30, 1839; Hubbard Beebe, April 19, 1848; E. S. Skinner, May 19, 1853; James C. Houghton, 1855; John Whitehill, 1861; Edward B. Chamberlain, 1868; E. P. Root, 1876; Edward A. Chase, May 28, 1884. Mr. Chase was the authorized historian of the church and delivered the address at the centennial celebration, November 18, 1885. The address has recently been published and widely circulated throughout the town, hence a more detailed narrative history of the old South



Baptist Church

parish church is unnecessary in this chapter. In the history of the town and locality the church has always exercised an influence for good, has furnished strength to other religious societies, and yet has retained a substantial membership. In 1834 the old meeting house was removed from its original location to the present site, and in the winter of 1868-9 the edifice was thoroughly remodeled at a cost of $3,000. Later material repairs were made in 1883.

The Methodist Episcopal church and society in South Wilbraham and Hampden dates its history from the year 1830, when

the class was resolved into an organized religious body, with a considerable membership drawn largely from the mother Congregational church and to a less extent from the Methodist element of population which then had become settled in the locality. Soon afterward a house of worship was erected, and from that time Methodism has been a controlling factor in the religious history of the town. The local church has a large membership and is constantly increasing in strength and usefulness. The present pastor is Rev. A. W. Baird.

A Baptist society and church was organized in South Wilbraham in 1855, and drew its original membership from the church of the same denomination in Monson, which about that time was dissolved. A house of worship was erected and from that time the history of the new church has been continuous and progressive. The present pastor is Rev. John Cameron.

The two cemeteries of Hampden were laid out, respectively, in 1755 and 1876, the older being located about a quarter of a mile from the center of the town, and comprising between two and three acres of land. The new cemetery is just outside the village proper, on the Stafford road. Both are under charge of town cemetery commissioners.

Past and Present.—During the period of its history, South Wilbraham and Hampden have produced a full quota of men of brains and substance. In our reminiscences of pioneer days in the South parish allusion is made to the men who prepared the way, for the subsequent prosperity of the town in all branches of domestic life, and it is our purpose now to mention the names of other townsmen, who during the last half century have been prominent factors in accomplishing results, but none of whom are now living.

First there may be recalled William Vyne Sessions, farmer, manufacturer, many years justice of the peace, representative to the general court, and county commissioner one term. Sumner Sessions, brother of William V., was one of the foremost men of his day, liberal and public spirited, builder of the first woolen mill that brought large business interests to the town; a farmer and owner of saw mill and other enterprises. "Squire" Beebe

was the local lawyer, the legal advisor of the townspeople; himself not specially prominent in Hampden county legal circles, but the father of several sons who achieved fame either here or in other localities. Junius Beebe, the eldest son, went to Ohio and became wealthy; Lucius became a southern cotton dealer and gained a fortune; Decius and Cyrus likewise attained prominence, the former dying in Hampden; Marcus was the plow manufacturer, of whom mention has been made. Eleazer Scripter was one of the founders of the woolen industry here, a trial justice and man of affairs in the town for years. Luther E. Sage was another conspicuous figure in manufacturing circle, himself the builder of a large woolen mill and a valuable factor in town history.

Solomon C. Spellman was an early merchant, a prominent old-time democrat, trial justice and justice of the peace, town representative, deputy sheriff and at one time special county commissioner. He eventually removed to Springfield, but died in Hampden. Charles C. Spellman, now of the Springfield bar, is a son of the late Solomon C. Spellman. William P. Spellman, brother of Solomon C., and his partner in business, was for many years a prominent character in local history; was frequently elected to town office and represented the town in the legislature. He was a whig of the Fillmore stripe. Abner C. Burleigh came into the town from Monson and began his career as a farm hand, but later on he became a prosperous man and thrifty farmer. Sullivan U. Stanton was a prominent farmer and took an active part in town affairs; was postmaster, town clerk, assessor and selectmen.

F. K. Lathrop was a stable-keeper here years ago, and also was a factor in local politics previous to his removal to Springfield. Ralph S. and Silas W. Chapin are remembered as substantial farmers and model citizens of quiet life and habits, rather than as active figures in town affairs. John W. Langdon —"Deacon" Langdon, as best known—was specially prominent in the church and moderately so in public matters. He once represented the town as the successful candidate of the know-nothing party. Carson K. Cone was a successful farmer. Walter

Hitchcock was a farmer, school commissioner, assessor and town representative.

Mention also is due to Levi Hitchcock, who died in Springfield; Isaac W. Leach, a successful man who accumulated a large property; John R. West, carpenter and contractor, builder of two of the large mill structures; James Stanton, carpenter, who removed to Minnesota; Beriah and Levi Smith, the former a farmer and the latter a cloth dresser and proprietor of a carding machine; Robert Sessions, junior, farmer, founder of the Methodist Epispocal church in the town, and father of H. M. and Robert O. Sessions, of Brookfield; James L. Furman; Deacon John B. Morris, brother of Oliver B. Morris of Springfield, a man of information and influence, a whig and later an ardent republican; Drs. Marcius Cady and Abial Bottom, practicing physicians here and men of note in the town; Loren Stacy, a well-to-do farmer; A. O. Thresher, who built kilns and made charcoal here for the Hazard Powder company.

Among the more prominent characters in Hampden history to-day, we may mention the names of Sumner Smith, the merchant, who came to the mills here in the capacity of superintendent; Lyman Smith, an excellent citizen and prominent man; Mortimer Pease, whose name we have frequently noted; Dr. Ballard, present chairman of the board of selectmen and for years one of its members; Moses H. Warren; Lucius A. Burleigh, farmer; Charles H. and Charles I. Burleigh; E. H. Temple; Nelson M. Carew, eight years selectman; John N. Isham, a prominent and successful farmer; William J. Sessions, one of the largest taxpayers in the town, son of William R. Sessions, the latter a native of this town, now residing in Springfield, and for twelve years secretary of the state board of agriculture; William Leach, the highway commissioner; David R. McCray, a prominent farmer and former selectman; Patrick E. Wall, once first selectman and a manufacturer; F. W. Dickinson, one of the first board of selectmen in 1878; John Bartlett, a successful farmer and the only remaining tobacco grower in the town; Matthias Casey, merchant and postmaster; John Kenworthy, the manufacturer and former selectman; John Q. Adams, town clerk, and many others.

INDEX

Index

Adams, Dr. Nathan, Vol. 1, 372
Agawam bridge, Vol. 1, 170; Encampment, 490; first settlement at, 33; Indians, 24.—Name of plantation changed to Springfield, Vol. 2, 11.—Town of, Vol. 3, 523; location and natural features, 523; the mother town of Springfield, 524; first settlement in Connecticut valley, 524; the first house built, 524; settlement removed to Springfield, 525; permanent settlement established, 525; the town incorporated, 526; list of selectmen, 526; town clerks, 527; military history, 528; resources of the town, 528; manufacturing development, 529; the town grange, 529; educational interests, 532; the library, 533; founding a church, 533; the Sixth church of Springfield, 534; two parishes formed, 534; First Congregational church, 535; Second Congregational church, 535; First Baptist church, 538; Methodist Episcopal church, 540; St. William's church, 540; census statistics, 541
Agricultural Society, Blandford, Vol. 2, 517
Agriculture in Hampden Co., Vol. 1, 499
Aix-la-Chapelle, treaty of, Vol. 1, 63
Almshouse, The, Springfield, Vol. 2, 160.—Holyoke, Vol. 3, 52
American Papeterie Co., The, Vol. 2, 270
Ames, N. E. Vol. 1, 395.—Col. Galen, Vol. 2, 192; Manufacturing Co., 262
Amity Lodge, Vol. 1, 488
Amostown, in West Springfield, Vol. 3, 233
Anderson, Dr. J. J., Vol. 1, 408
Appleton, Dr. John, Vol. 1, 348
Aqueduct Company, the Springfield, Vol. 2, 156
Armory buildings burned, Vol. 2, 56
Art Building, The, Vol. 2, 180
Ashmun George, Vol. 1, 316
Assurance Cos., the Mutual Fire, Vol. 2, 241
Atheneum, The, of Westfield, Vol. 2, 431
Attorneys, list of, Vol. 1, 304, 331
Atwater, Rev. Noah, Vol. 2, 401
Aubert, discoveries of, Vol. 1, 14
Auditors, Vol. 1, 124

Bagg, Dr. J. L., Vol. 1, 376
Baker, Dr. M. B., Vol. 1, 343
Banks, the Springfield, Vol. 2, 222; the Second National, 223; the Chicopee, 223; the Chicopee National, 224; the Agawam National, 225; the Western, 226; the John Hancock National, 227; the Third National, 230; the Pynchon National, 228; the First National, 229; the Third National, 231; the Chapin National, 231; the City National, 233; the Springfield National, 234; the Springfield Safe Deposit and Trust Co., 234; the Hampden Trust Co., 235; the Springfield Institution for Savings, 236; the Hampden Savings, 239; the Springfield Five Cents Savings, 240.—Hadley Falls National, Vol. 3, 59; Holyoke National, 61; City National, Holyoke, 62; Home National, Holyoke, 64; Park National, Holyoke, 65; Holyoke Savings, 65; Mechanics' Savings, 66; People's Savings, 67; Holyoke Co-operative, 68; City Co-operative, 68; the Monson National, 298; the Monson Savings, 299; First National, Chicopee, 506; Chicopee Savings, 507; Chicopee Falls Savings, 507
Bar Association, The Hampden, Vol. 1, 336
Barnes James, Brev. Maj.-Gen., Vol. 1, 223
Barney & Berry Skate Works, The, Vol. 2, 270
Bartholmew, Dr. S. B., Vol. 1, 409
Bates, Isaac C., Vol. 1, 314; Wm. G., 320
Bay Path, account of, Vol. 1, 154; Lodge, 489
Bay State Weekly Courier, Vol. 1, 428.—Corset Co., The, Vol. 2, 273
Beach, Erasmus D., Vol. 1, 320
Belcher Lodge, Vol. 1, 474
Belden, D. Chauncey, Vol. 1, 352; Dr. Sam'l W., 343

Bell, Dr. Cyrus, Vol. 1, 376
Bemis, Dr. David, Vol. 1, 343
Bench and Bar, The Hampden, Vol. 1, 293
Bible Normal College, Vol. 2, 142
Blanchardville, village of, Vol. 3, 149
Blandford, fort built in, Vol. 1, 62; mineral deposits of, 5.—Town of, Vol. 2, 482; natural features, 482; equivalent lands, 484; land purchases and grants, 485; early settlement, 486; the original proprietors, 486; the Lawton deed, 488; the first church founders, 491; the Pixley grant, 500; highways and turnpikes, 500; during the revolution, 497; the first grist mill, 496; poverty of the settlers, 495; partitioning the lands, 494; incidents of settlement, 492; the first town name, 491; North Blandford village, 502; the M. E. church at the North village, 504; village, 504; prominent men of, 504; the first meeting-house, 507; churches of, 510; population, 514; burial places, 514; schools of the town, 515; the Union agricultural and horticultural society, 517; list of selectmen, 519; list of town clerks, 523; early town representatives, 523; civil war list, 524
Bliss, Dr. Oliver, Vol. 1, 344; George, 314; Jonathan, 314; Silas, 394
Board of Trade, the Springfield, Vol. 2, 217
Bond, Ephraim W., Vol. 1, 324
Bondsville, village, Vol. 3, 147
Boston and Albany Railroad, Vol. 1, 181
Boston and Maine Railroad, Vol. 1, 183
Boston and Springfield Manufacturing Co., Vol. 2, 261
Boston Stone, History of, Vol. 1, 154
Boston Tea Party, Vol. 1, 71
Bowen, Dr. Charles H., Vol. 1, 377
Bowles, Dr. Stephen W., Vol. 1, 375
Breck, Dr. William G., Vol. 1, 370.—Rev. Robert, controversy concerning, Vol. 2, 30
Brewer, Dr. Chauncey, Vol. 1, 344.—Rev. Daniel, death of, Vol. 2, 30
Brewster, Dr. Joseph W., Vol. 1, 346
Bridges, Vol. 1, 164; Agawam, 170; Chicopee, 170; Holyoke and South Hadley Falls, 171; South End, history of, 171; the North End, history of, 171; Willimansett, 173
Bridgman, Dr. William, Vol. 1, 344
Brigham Lodge, Vol. 1, 474
Brimfield, town of, Vol. 2, 456; natural features, 456; first settlers, 457; land-grants, 458; the first town meeting, 460; list of selectmen, 462; list of town clerks, 468; list of representatives, 468; the French and Indian wars, 469; the Crown Point expedition, 470; expedition against Canada, 470; during the revolution, 471; list of revolutionary soldiers, 473; incidents of Shays' rebellion, 474; during the war of 1812-15, 474; the war of 1861-65, 475; resources of the town, 476; early manufactures, 477; educational history, 478; the first meeting-house, 480; area and population, 481
British aggression, Vol. 1, 70; generals, character of, 67
Bronson, Dr. Henry, Vol. 1, 351
Brookfield burned, Vol. 1, 45
Brown, Timothy M., Vol. 1, 329.—John, the abolitionist, citizen of Springfield, Vol. 2, 64
Bull, Rev. Nehemiah, Vol. 2, 401
Bunker Hill, battle of, Vol. 1, 77
Business Men's Association, Holyoke, Vol. 3, 83
Byers, James, jr., Vol. 2, 189

Cabotville Mirror, Vol. 1, 461; Chronicle and Chicopee Falls Advertiser, 461
Calhoun, William B., Vol. 1, 320
Campaign of 1754, Vol. 1, 64
Canals, Vol. 1, 173.—The Holyoke water Power Co., Vol. 3, 75
Cape Ann, settlement at, Vol. 1, 30
Canton Chapin, Vol. 1, 491; Springfield, 492; Holyoke, 499
Carter, Dr. Charles D., Vol. 1, 410
Cartier, Jacques, voyages and discoveries by, Vol. 1, 15
Carver, Gov. John, death of, Vol. 1, 29
Cemeteries, of Springfield, Vol. 2, 196; the Springfield, 197; St. Benedict's, 199; St. Michael's, Springfield, 200; Maplewood, Springfield, 201; Oak Grove, Springfield, 200.—Holyoke, Vol. 3, 84; Forestdale, Holyoke, 85; St. Jerome's, Holyoke, 85; Calvary, Holyoke, 85
Central High School, Springfield, Vol. 2, 127
Champion, Dr. Reuben, Vol. 1, 344
Champlain, Samuel, discoverer, Vol. 1, 15; invasions by, 15
Chapin, Dr. Alonzo, Vol. 1, 344.—Abijah, Vol. 2, 192; Col. Harvey, 191; Dea. Samuel, the Puritan, 13; Dea. Samuel, death of, 26; Edward P., 193
Chapman, Dr. Thos. L., Vol. 1, 371; Reuben A., 306.—Valve Co., Vol. 2, 265
Chaput, Dr. Henry E., Vol. 3, 115
Charest, Odilon Z. E., Vol. 3, 115

Cheney Bigelow Wire Works, The, Vol. 2, 272

Chester, emery deposits in, Vol. 1, 5; Chronicle, The, 453.—Town of, Vol. 3, 348; description and boundaries, 348; natural features, 349; the locality of the Centre, 350; early settlement, 353; the land grants, 353; names of settlers, 355; drawing lots, 355; the minister lot, 356; first named Murrayfield, 357; first town meeting, 358; events of early town history, 359; dividing the territory, 360; early representatives, 361; during the revolution, 361; raising men and money, 362; changing the town name, 363; first officers under new name, 363; villages and hamlets, 364; meeting-house at the Centre, 366; the first minister, 366; ministers and pastors, 367; the Baptist society, 368; physicians of, 369; North Chester village, 370; Dayville village, 371; Littleville village, 371; village, 371; the village meeting-house, 374; village physicians, 375; village lawyers, 375; manufacturing interests, 376; Chester Factories village, 378; mercantile and manufacturing, 378; churches in Chester Factories, 384; burial places, 386; schools, 386; lawyers at Factories village, 387; physicians at the Factories, 387; census statistics, 388; town civil list, 388; selectmen of Murrayfield, 388; town clerks of Murrayfield, 388; list of Chester selectmen, 388; town clerks of Chester, 391; civil war lists, 391; soldiers of the revolution, 392

Chicopee Bridge, Vol. 1, 170; Telegraph, 461; The Press of, 461; Weekly Journal, 461; Lodge, 472; Lodge, 497.—Set off from Springfield, Vol. 2, 81.—Town of, Vol. 3, 482; geographical and topographical, 482; beginning of settlement, 482; the first land contract, 483; settlement as Skipmuck, 484; improvements south of the river, 484; fishing in Chicopee river, 485; settlement in Willimansett, 486; troubles with the Indians, 486; revolutionary history, 487; the Shays rebellion, 487; the "Street," 487; discussions prior to the division of Springfield, 488; the new town organized, 489; the first officers, 489; census statistics, 490; town civil list, 491; list of selectmen, 491; clerks and treasurers, 492; city civil list, 493; mayors, 493; aldermen, 493; common councilman, 494; assessors, 495; overseers of the poor, 495; city physicians, 495; city engineer, 495; city solicitors, 495; chiefs of police, 495; superintendents of streets, 496; license commissioners, 496; war of 1865-5, 496; beginning of industrial development, 496; the water power of Chicopee river, 497; early manufactures, 497;; the Willimansett Manufacturing Co., 497; the Belcher & Taylor Agricultural Tool Co., 498; the Chicopee Manufacturing Co., 499; the Massachusetts Arms Co., 499; the Lamb Knitting Machine Co., 500; the J. Stevens Arms and Tool Co., 500; the Overman Wheel Co., 500; industries of Cabotville, 501; the Dwight Manufacturing Co., 501; the Ames Manufacturing Co., 503; the Gaylord Manufacturing Co., 504; present manufactures, 504; the Chicopee Gas Light Co., 505; the water supply, 505; banking and financial history, 506; the First National bank, 506; the Chicopee Savings bank, 507; educational institutions, 507; the first town school report, 509; the library, 511; the city press, 511; church history, 513; First Congregational church, 513; the Second Congregational church, 515; the Third Congregational church, 515; the M. E. church, 515; Central M. E. church, 516; the First Baptist church, 517; Central Baptist church, 517; Grace Episcopal church, 518; Unitarian church, 518; Universalist society, 518; Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, 519; St. Patrick's church, 520; Church of the Assumption, 521; St. Stanislaus' church, 521; St. Joachim's church, 522; Church of the Nativity, 522

Church, Dr. Jefferson, Vol. 1, 350.—Moses, Vol. 2, 186

City Hall, built in Springfield, Vol. 2, 65; Library Association, 172

City of Chicopee, Vol. 3, 482; Holyoke, 1.—Springfield, Vol. 2, 1

Civil List, Vol. 1, 124

Clary Robert E., Brev. Brig.-Gen., Vol. 1, 223

Clerks of Court, list of, Vol. 1, 151; of the House, 149

Cloutier, Dr. Felix J., Vol. 3, 115

Clune, John H., Vol. 2, 195

College, The Bible Normal, Vol. 2, 142; The French-American, 142

Collins, Amos M., developer of Blandford, Vol. 2, 499

Colonists and Indians, first battle, Vol. 1, 40

Colony of Connecticut, troubles with, Vol. 1, 35
Compact for government of Pilgrims, Vol. 1, 29
Connecticut River Navigation, Vol. 1, 188
Connecticut troops garrison northern towns, Vol. 1, 51
Connecticut Valley Farmer, Vol. 1, 433; region claimed by Dutch, 16; becomes known to the English colonists, 31; explored by Plymouth colonists, 32; first visited by Dorchester colonists, 32; Indians, treachery of, 45; Indians, allied to King Philip, 45; towns urged to concentrate inhabitants, 54.—Historical Society, Vol. 2, 215
Converse, Alonzo, authority on fisheries, Vol. 1, 196
Cooper, Lieut., death of, Vol. 1, 47
Corporations, turnpike, Vol. 1, 154
Correction, House of, built, Vol. 1, 112
Counties formed, Vol. 1, 37
County congresses assembled, Vol. 1, 76; Seat, removed to Northampton, 114; Jail, and house of correction, 121, 123; Commissioners, list of, 151; Treasurers, list of, 151
Court, clerks of, Vol. 1, 151; Common Pleas, Justices of, 149; House, the first, location of, 114; House, the second, location of, 117; House, present building erected, 121; Insolvency, Judges of, 149; Probate, Judges of, 149; Probate and Insolvency, Judges of, 149; of Sessions, Justices of, 149; Superior, Justices of, 149; Supreme Judicial, Justices of, 149; Square, donors to fund for, 119
Cowan, Dr. A. B., Vol. 1, 405
Courts established, Vol. 1, 111; Supreme Judicial, established, 294; Superior, established, 296; Police, established, 299; District, established, 300; General Sessions of the Peace, established, 301
Cross, Dr. Cyrus W., Vol. 1, 405
Cummins, David, Vol. 1, 310
Custom House, Springfield, Vol. 2, 195

Daily Argus, The, Vol. 1, 432; Democrat, The, 441; News, The, 438; Republican, The, Springfield, 428
Day, Capt. Luke, insurgent leader, Vol. 1, 94; proclamation of, 97; sketch of, 99
Davis, Dr. George W., Vol. 1, 374.—Rev. Emerson, first settled pastor, Vol. 2, 403
Dayville, village, Vol. 3, 371
Deeds, registers of, Vol. 1, 151
Deerfield attacked, Vol. 1, 46; plundered and burned, 59
Demers, Jacques L., Vol. 3, 116
Democrat, The Independent, Vol. 1, 426
Democratic Herald, Vol. 1, 445
Dental Profession, The, Vol. 1, 390
Derby, Dr. Pardon H., Vol. 1, 407
De Soto Lodge, Vol. 1, 487
Dewey, Justin, Vol. 1, 311
DeWolf, Dr. Thad. K., Vol. 1, 365
Dickinson high school, Vol. 3, 207
Die Biene, Vol. 1, 459
Discoveries in America, early European, Vol. 1, 14
District Attorneys, list of, Vol. 1, 150
District Court of Eastern Hampden, justices of, Vol. 1, 150; of Western Hampden, justices of, 150
District Courts, Vol. 1, 300
Dodge, Dr. J. N., Vol. 1, 408
Domestic Journal, The, Vol. 1, 442
Ducharme, Valere, Vol. 3, 116
Dunbar, James R., Vol. 1, 312
Durocher, Alfred D., Vol. 3, 116
Dutch hostilities, Vol. 1, 18; power, overthrow of, 18; sell guns and rum to Indians, 26; Point, fort built, 32
Dwight, William, Brig.-Gen., Vol. 1, 224.—Company, The, Vol. 2, 263

Eastern Star Lodge, Vol. 1, 495
East Longmeadow, Vol. 3, 429; physical features, 429; a part of inward commons, 429; relation to mother town, 430; division of the old town, 431; first town election, 432; church history, 432; the First Congregational church, 433; the M. E. church, 434; St. Michael's church, 435; the public library, 435; the stone quarries, 436; census statistics, 437
Education in Hampden County, Vol. 1, 232.—In Springfield, Vol. 2, 113
Edwards, Oliver, Brev. Maj.-Gen., Vol. 1, 225
Eighteenth Infantry, Vol. 1, 204
Eighth Infantry, Vol. 1, 216
Ely, Nathaniel, licensed to keep ordinary, Vol. 2, 24
English settlements, Vol. 1, 17; and French rivalries, 18; colonization and settlements by, 27; possessions in America divided by King James I, 27; Dissenters, find refuge in Holland, 28
European powers, rival claims of, Vol. 1, 17
Evening Globe, The, Vol. 1, 459; Telegram, 459; Star Chapter, 476

Fairfield village, Vol. 3, 449
Falley's X Roads, Vol. 3, 371
Father Rasle's war, Vol. 1, 61
Federal Spy, The, Vol. 1, 420
Ferries, Vol. 1, 161
Fessant, John E., Vol. 3, 117
Fire Department, Springfield, Vol. 2, 145
First Plymouth company, fate of, Vol. 1, 27
Fishing Rights, Vol. 1, 196
Fitch, Dr. W. L., Vol. 1, 344
Flagg, Dr. U. H., Vol. 1, 377
Flint, Dr. Joseph H., Vol. 1, 347
Forbes, Dr. George F., Vol. 1, 387
Forest Park, Vol. 2, 164; acquisition of lands for, 168; extent of, 169
Fort Pynchon torn down, Vol. 2, 63
Forts built on the frontier, Vol. 1, 62
Forty-Second Infantry, Vol. 1, 217
Forty-Sixth Infantry, Vol. 1, 213
Fowler, Landlord, house of, Vol. 2, 371
Franklin Library Association, Vol. 2, 170
Free Masonry, history of, Vol. 1, 464
French-American Citizen, The, Vol. 1, 442.—College, Vol. 2, 142
French, influence of, among the Indians, Vol. 1, 20; and Indian depredations in Connecticut valley, 59; and English wars, 62; dominion, end of, in America, 68.—people, Holyoke, Vol. 3, 109
Frost, Dr. George, Vol. 1, 343; Dr. Joshua, 343

Gage, Gen., occupies Boston, Vol. 1, 71
Gamwell, Dr. Harlow, Vol. 1, 372.—William, school of, Vol. 3, 36
Gas Light Co., the Springfield, Vol. 2, 267
Genest, Ophir E., Vol. 3, 117
Geology of Hampden county, Vol. 1, 1-13
Gillett, Edward B., Vol. 1, 322
Glenwood Lodge, Vol. 1, 498
Glover, Rev. Pelatiah, library burned, Vol. 1, 49.—Settled as minister, Vol. 2, 15
Good Cheer Lodge, Vol. 1, 496
Good Housekeeping, The, Vol. 1, 441
Gould, Dr. Joseph, Vol. 1, 404
Governors, Vol. 1, 124
Granville, town of, Vol. 3, 247; land purchased from Indians, 248; the first settler, 248; the Bedford company, 248; early prominent men, 249; incident of Col. Bates, 250; the first house in the middle parish, 251; character of early settlers, 251; civil history, 252; town organization, 253; list of selectmen, 253; town clerks, 256; census statistics, 257; during the revolution, 258; the town minutemen, 258; the jubilee celebration, 259; the First Church of Christ, 260; the Second Congregational church, 261; the Baptist church, 261; the Universalist society, 261; villages of the town, 262; schools, 261; village of Granville, 263; village of Granville Corners, 263; business interests, 264; some prominent townsmen, 265
Gray Lock, the Indian chief, Vol. 1, 62

Hadley Falls National bank, Vol. 3, 59; Company, 70
Haile, William H., Vol. 1, 327
Hamel, Furmence, Vol. 3, 114
Hamilton, Dr. E. H., Vol. 1, 377
Hampden County, geology of, Vol. 1, 1; map of, 107; act creating, 115; Education in, 232
Hampden Railroad, Vol. 1, 186; Federalist, 425; Journal, 425; Patriot, 425; Post, 426; Whig, 426; Intelligencer, 427; Statesman, 427; Washingtonian, 427; Register, 442; Freeman, The, 455; Lodge, F. & A. M., 470; Lodge, I. O. O. F., 485.—Mechanics' Association, Vol. 2, 170; Brewery, proprietors of, 262; Watch Co., The, 269; Paint and Chemical Co., The, 271
Hampden, town of, Vol. 3, 542; a part of "outward commons," 542; fourth precinct of Springfield, 542; the pioneer settler, 542; account of early settlement, 543; petition for new parish, 544; the South parish of Wilbraham, 545; setting up the meeting-house, 545; the parish becomes South Wilbraham, 546; old parish records, 546; town organization, 547; list of selectmen, 548; town clerks, 548; census statistics, 549; villages and hamlets, 549; manufactures of Hampden village, 550; old-time interests, 551; prominent men in village history, 551; present business interests, 552; school history of, 553; the old Hampden academy, 553; church history, 554; the Congregational church, 554; the M. E. church, 555; the Baptist society, 556; reminiscences, "past and present," 556 prominent men of the town, 556
Hampshire and Berkshire Chronicle, Vol. 1, 420; and Hampden Canal, 174; Chronicle, The, 419; County, political situation, 69; County, troops furnished, 77, 79; County, situation in, after the revolution, 81; County, organization of, 109; County,

division of, 115; County, Courts established, 303; County officers killed, 566; Federalist, 420; Herald and Weekly Advertiser, 419
Hartford and Springfield Railroad, Vol. 1, 181; Dutch fort at, 17
Hatfield, convention at, Vol. 1, 89
Hawkins Iron Works, The R. F., Vol. 2, 270
Herald of Life, The, Vol. 1, 441
High School, the first in Springfield, Vol. 2, 116
High Schools established, Vol. 1, 243
Hitchcock Free academy, Vol. 2, 478
Holland, town of, Vol. 3, 394; a part of South Brimfield, 394; the East parish, 394; town boundaries, 395; early settlement, 395; reminiscences of early life, 397; census statistics, 400; civil history, 400; list of selectmen, 401; town clerks, 403; resources of the town, 404; derivation of town name, 404; Holland village, 406; the town school, 407; church history, 407; some prominent men, 409
Holland, Dr. Eugene, Vol. 1, 350; Dr. Homer, 350; Dr. James, 347; Dr. James, jr., 350; Dr. William, 350; Dr. Virgil, 350
Holland's summary of results of King Philip's war, Vol. 1, 50
Holyoke, city of, Vol. 3, 1; the region previous to settlement, 1; traces of Indian occupancy, 2; division of the common lands, 3; the Third parish set off, 3; the first settlers, 3; acquisitions to the settlement, 5; early manufactures, 6; ferries across the Connecticut, 6; the Irish village, 7; the Baptist village, 7; town organization, 7; the town name, 8; reference to Elizur Holyoke, 8; census statistics, 9; causes of early growth, 9; the first town meeting, 9; list of selectmen, 10; town clerks, 11; town treasurers, 11; founding the city, 12; the act of incorporation, 12; municipal statistics, 14; the city hall, 14; special acts relating to the city, 14; municipal civil list, 17; succession of mayors, 17; city clerks, 17; city treasurers, 17; list of aldermen, 19; common councilmen, 21; presidents of board of aldermen, 26; presidents of common council, 26; city auditors, 26; city messengers, 26; city engineers, 26; city solicitors, 26; city physicians, 27; assessors of taxes, 27; city marshals, 27; board of public works, 27; the fire department, 27; the first fire district, 28; fire commission established, 29; chief engineers, 29; fire commissioners, 30; city water supply, 30; the first water works company, 30; city water commission established, 30; water commissioners, 31; superintendents of water works, 32; water registrars, 32; the public parks, 32; park commissioners, 34; educational institutions, 34; Rand's seminary, 36; William Gamwell's school, 36; the first town schools, 37; the first graduating class, 37; the first high school, 37; town school superintendents, 38; early school principals, 39; town school committees, 39; the modern school system, 39; statistics of the city schools, 41; city school principals, 42; city school superintendents, 42; city school committees, 42; the public library, 44; first library officers, 46; library appropriations, 46; the new library building, 46; library officers, 48; the city hospital, 49; hospital incorporators, 49; hospital aid association, 49; officers of the hospital, 51; aid association officers, 51; the almshouse, 52; House of Providence hospital, 52; the Y. M. C. A., 52; street railway company, 54; Mt. Tom railroad Co., 58; financial institutions, 59; industrial history, 68; the Hadley Falls Co., 70; the wing dam built, 70; the first dam, 72; the dam carried away, 72; the second dam, 72; the water power Co., 73; the present dam, 74; the canal system, 75; record of industries, 78; business men's association, 83; cemeteries, 84; church history, 86; the First Congregational church, 87; the Second Congregational church, 90; First Baptist church, 92; Second Baptist church, 94; First M. E. church, 96; Highlands M. E. church, 98; Presbyterian church, 98; St. Paul's church, 99; Unitarian church, 101; French Congregational church, 102; German Evangelical Lutheran church, 102; German Reformed church, 103; St. Jerome's church, 103; parish of the Precious Blood, 106; Sacred Heart church, 107; Holy Rosary church, 108; Our Lady of Perpetual Help church, 108; the Polish church, 109; The French Population, 109
Holyoke and So. Hadley Falls bridge, history of, Vol. 1, 171; and Westfield railroad, 187; Capt., saves English troops from destruction, 55; Council, 447.—Elizur, death of, Vol. 2, 26.—Lodge, Vol. 1,

497; The Press of, 455; Transcript, 458; Weekly Mirror, 456
Home for Aged Women, Vol. 2, 210; for Friendless Women and Children, 209
Homestead, The, Vol. 1, 439
Homoeopathy, Vol. 1, 381
Hooker, Dr. George, Vol. 1, 346; Dr. John, 369
Hospitals, Hampden Homœopathic, Vol. 2, 206.—Holyoke city, Vol. 3, 49.—House of Mercy, Vol. 2, 206; King's Daughters and Sons, 208; Springfield, 202
House of Representatives, members of, Vol. 1, 127
Hudson, Henry, discoveries by, Vol. 1, 16; river, discovery of, 16
Humphreys, Dr. Levi W., Vol. 1, 347
Hurlbut, Dr. C. S., Vol. 1, 398; Dr. J. S., 411
Hutchins, James R., Vol. 2, 188
Hyde Louis C., Vol. 2, 195

Indian Orchard Canal Co., Vol. 2, 263
Indians, Abenaquis create trouble, Vol. 1, 61; Agawams at Springfield, 24; Connecticut valley, 21; effect of Champlain's policy, 22; habits and characteristics of, 21; Massacres at Windsor, 24; of New England, origin of, 22; Nonotucks at Hadley and Northampton, 24; Pocomtucks at Deerfield, 24; Pynchon's influence among, 25; Quaboags at Brookfield, 24; Squakheags at Northfield, 24; Woronokes at Westfield, 24.—Lands of, sold to Pynchon, Vol. 2, 3; of Westfield, 339
Industrial House Charities, the, Vol. 2, 212
Insolvency, Registers of, Vol. 1, 150
Institution for Savings, the Springfield, Vol. 2, 236
Insurance Companies, Vol. 2, 241; Massachusetts Mutual Life, 246; Springfield Fire and Marine, 243
Internal Improvements, Vol. 1, 152
International Y. M. C. A. training school, Vol. 2, 141
Iroquois country, invaded by Champlain, Vol. 1, 15

Jamestown, Va., settled by English, Vol. 1, 17
Jesuits, influence of, among the Indians, Vol. 1, 20
Jones, Dr. Bela B., Vol. 1, 346

Keep, John, and family killed, Vol. 1, 53
Keyes, Erasmus D., Maj.-Gen., Vol. 1, 225
Kibbe, Dr. Gideon, Vol. 1, 345
King, Dr. Aaron, Vol. 1, 345
King Philip, invades the Connecticut Valley, Vol. 1, 46; surprises Hatfield, 51; driven from Connecticut Valley, 55
King Philip's war, Vol. 1, 45; death, 56
King William's war, Vol. 1, 58
Kingsbury, Dr. Samuel, Vol. 1, 345
Kirkham, Ralph W., Brev. Brig.-Gen., Vol. 1, 226
Knapp, Rev. Isaac, the last town minister, Vol. 2, 403
Knowlton, Marcus Perrin, Vol. 1, 309
Knox, Alanson, Vol. 1, 316
Kossuth, Louis, visits Springfield, Vol. 2, 64

Lathrop, Dr. Seth, Vol. 1, 345; Samuel, 314
Laporte, Leon J., Vol. 3, 117
LaPresse, The, Vol. 1, 460
Lawton, Dr. Sanford, Vol. 1, 376
Lee, Horace C., Brev. Brig.-Gen., Vol. 1, 229.—Vol. 2, 193
LeGro, Dr. David, Vol. 1, 408
Leonard, Nehemiah A., Vol. 1, 325
Lexington alarm, Vol. 1, 74; battle of, 74
Libraries, city library association, Vol. 2, 172; Franklin library association, 170; George Bliss' gift for, 175; Hampden mechanics' association, 170; the Springfield, 170; Young men's institute, 171
Library, Holyoke public, Vol. 3, 44
Lieutenant-Governors, Vol. 1, 124
Littleville, village, Vol. 3, 371
Lombard, Daniel, Vol. 2, 189
Long, Dr. John, Vol. 1, 347
Longmeadow sandstone, Vol. 1, 8; settlers attacked, 53.—Town of, Vol. 3, 410; location and name, 410; natural features, 410; the massacre of 1675, 411; the Third parish of Springfield, 412; building the meeting-house, 413; the first minister, 414; movement for new town, 416; the town incorporated, 417; committee of the precinct, 417; list of selectmen, 419; precinct and town clerks, 421; town representatives, 421; state senators, 421; during the Indian wars, 422; revolutionary history, 423; during Shays' rebellion, 424; war of 1812-15, 424; the civil war, 424; industries, 425; church history, 425; the First Congregational church, 426; St. Mary's church, 428; census statistics, 429
Loring, Dr. W. L., Vol. 1, 351

Lottery, for bridge at Springfield, Vol. 1, 168
Louisburg, Springfield men killed at, Vol. 2, 33
Lucy Webb Hayes Lodge, Vol. 1, 493
Ludlow Manufacturing Co., The, Vol. 2, 268
Ludlow, town of, Vol. 3, 312; description and natural features, 312; beginning of settlement, 314; incorporation and boundaries, 315; the first town meeting, 316; list of selectmen, 316; town clerks, 318; town representatives, 319; during the revolution, 319; continental army soldiers, 320; war of 1812-15, 320; Shays' rebellion, 320; war of the rebellion, 321; early occupations, 322; industrial development, 324; the savings bank, 327; the memorial library, 327; the town minister, 328; locating the center village, 328; early ministers, 330; the church pastors, 331; the M. E. church, 331; the M. E. church at Jencksville, 332; town societies, 334; educational interests, 334; census statistics, 335

MacDuffie, The, school for girls, Vol. 2, 140
Maplewood cemetery, Vol. 2, 201
Massachusetts Gazette and General Advertiser, Vol. 1, 418.—Hospital for epileptics, Vol. 3, 269.—Mutual Life Insurance Co., The, Vol. 2, 246.—Organizes army to crush King Philip, Vol. 1, 52
Massasoit befriends the Pilgrims, Vol. 1, 29
Massasoit's loyalty, Vol. 1, 44
Masse, Joseph, Vol. 3, 117
Mather, Dr. Samuel, Vol. 1, 348
Maxfield, Dr. George A., Vol. 1, 406
Maynard, Elisha Burr, Vol. 1, 312
Medical Association, Eastern Hampden, Vol. 1, 377; Club, The Springfield, 380; profession, the, 338; Society, Hampden District, 359; Society, The Homeopathic, 381
Medlicott-Morgan Co., The, Vol. 2, 272
Menard, Dr. Anthyme S., Vol. 3, 118
Merchant, Dr. Harry A., Vol. 1, 377
Merrick, village of, Vol. 3, 231
Militia force organized, Vol. 1, 44
Miller, Dr. H. M., Vol. 1, 404; Thomas, killed, 47
Mills, John, Vol. 1, 318
Milton Bradley Co., The, Vol. 2, 272
Minutemen march to Boston, Vol. 1, 75
Missionaries of New England, Vol. 1, 21
Mittineague, village of, Vol. 3, 231
Mohawk Indians friendly to English, Vol. 1, 65
Monson, granite deposits in, Vol. 1, 7; lodge, 496.—Town of, Vol. 3, 266; description and natural features, 266; the first house, 266; the Fellows land grant, 267; the first settlers, 268; laying out the township, 268; the district incorporated, 270; the first district meeting, 271; revolutionary incidents, 271; full town powers granted, 272; an era of prosperity, 275; early industries, 276; war of 1861-5, 278; incidents in town history, 280; the flood of 1869, 280; the "dark day," 280; dedicating the soldiers' monument, 282; the memorial town hall, 283; the water supply, 283; comparative statistics, 284; educational history, 286; the academy, 287; the postoffice, 292; the fire department, 293; the water works, 293; town libraries, 294; the Lyon memorial library, 296; hospital for epileptics, 296; the Monson National bank, 298; the savings bank, 299; manufacturing interests, 300; ecclesiastical history, 303; cemeteries, 308; town civil list, 310; list of selectmen, 310; town clerks, 311; list of representatives, 312
Montgomery, town of, Vol. 3, 335; the New Addition, 335; early settlement, 336; incorporating the town, 336; early military history, 337; the early settlers, 337; town organization, 341; list of selectmen, 341; town clerks, 343; census statistics, 345; the trading center, 345; the town schools, 346; church history, 346; some prominent men, 347
Moquin, Val., Vol. 3, 118
Morgan, Albert, Vol. 2, 189.—Dr. Newton, Vol. 1, 410.—Envelope Co., The, Vol. 2, 269; Miles, becomes a settler, 13
Morning Star Chapter, Vol. 1, 475; Lodge, 492
Morris, George B., Vol. 1, 322; Henry, 310; Oliver B., 316
Moseley, Capt. William, house of, Vol. 2, 371
Moxon, Rev. George, called as minister, Vol. 2, 10; returns to England, 21
Mount Holyoke Chapter, Vol. 1, 476; Railroad, 184
Mt. Tom Railroad Co., Vol. 3, 58
Mountain Park, Vol. 3, 33
Murrayfield, old town of, Vol. 3, 357
Mutual Fire Assurance Co., The, Vol. 2, 241

Narragansetts, alliance with English, Vol. 1, 39
National Needle Co., The, Vol. 2, 270

Newell Bros. Manufacturing Co., The, Vol. 2, 271
New England Rundschau, Vol. 1, 459
"New France," discovered by Verrazzani, Vol. 1, 14
New Haven and Northampton Canal Co., Vol. 1, 174
New Netherlands, named, Vol. 1, 16
Newport, Dr. E. C., Vol. 1, 387
Newspapers of Hampden County, Vol. 1, 416
Newton Lodge, Vol. 1, 474
New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, Vol. 1, 183
Noble, Dr. Lester, Vol. 1, 399
Nonotuck Indians, Vol. 1, 24
Normal Schools, the first, Vol. 1, 242
Northampton and Springfield Railroad, Vol. 1, 183; and Westfield Railroad, 187; Convention at, 102; court broken up at, 89
North Blandford, village of, Vol. 2, 502
North Chester, village, Vol. 3, 370
North End bridge, Vol. 1, 171
Northfield, attack upon, Vol. 1, 46

Oak Grove Cemetery, Vol. 2, 200
O'Brien, Dr. James E., Vol. 1, 409
O'Connor, Dr. James J., Vol. 1, 375
Odd Fellowship, Vol. 1, 483
Old Toll Bridge, history of, Vol. 1, 164
O'Neill, Dr. John F., Vol. 1, 410
Owen, Dr. Varillas, Vol. 1, 373

Palmer, The Press of, Vol. 1, 463; Sentinel, The, 463; Times, The, 463; Herald, The, 464; Citizen, The, 464
Palmer, town of, Vol. 3, 123; topography, 123; Indian remains, 126; the first settler, 127; petition for a town, 127; report of the committee, 128; land division recommended, 129; report on meeting house, 130; settling the minister, 132; the first meeting-house, 132; French and Indian war, 133; plantation organized as a town, 133; the last French and Indian wars, 134; during the revolution, 135; full town rights assumed, 136; Burgoyne's captive army in the town, 137; colonial census, 139; revolutionary soldiers, 139; post-bellum days, 140; the new meeting-house, 141; turnpikes and highways, 141; early industries, 142; villages and their industries, 142; village of Three Rivers, 144; village of Thorndike, 145; village of Bondsville, 147; Palmer village, 148; village of Blanchardville, 149; colonial houses, 150; early taverns, 150; church history, 152; Second Baptist church, 152; St. Paul's Universalist church, 152; Catholic churches, 153; schools, 154; Young Men's Library Association, 154; societies, 155; cemeteries, 155; war of the rebellion, 156; some prominent men, 156; clerks of the Elbows plantation, 157; district and town clerks, 157; list of selectmen, 157; list of physicians, 162; lawyers, 163; representatives, 163; the town to-day, 165
Parks, the Holyoke, Vol. 3, 32.—The Springfield, Vol. 2, 161
Parochial Schools, Springfield, Vol. 2, 140
Parsons Tavern, The, Vol. 2, 42
Patoel, Dr. Francis X., Vol. 3, 119
Pequot war, Vol. 1, 39
Pequots annihilated, Vol. 1, 40
Perkins, Cyrus, Vol. 1, 393; Jacob, jr., 392
Phillips, Col. Henry M., Vol. 2, 195; Manufacturing Co., The, 272
Pilgrims, landing of, at Plymouth, Vol. 1, 29; sail from Southampton, 28
Pitkin, Rev. Paul H., school, Vol. 2, 140
Plantations established, Vol. 1, 41
Plymouth Colony, government of transferred to New England, Vol. 1, 30; Rock, colony planted at, 17
Police Court established, Vol. 1, 299; Chicopee, justices of, 150; Holyoke, justices of, 150; Springfield, justices of, 150
Population of the colonies, Vol. 1, 62
Porter, Dr. Jesse, Vol. 1, 401
Postoffice building, when erected, Vol. 2, 195; Springfield, 184
Potvin, Adelard M., Vol. 3, 119
Presidents of Senate, Vol. 1, 125
Press, The, Vol. 1, 416
Prew, George J., Vol. 3, 119; John J., 120; Joseph N., 120
Probate and Insolvency, Registers of, Vol. 1, 149
Probate, Registers of, 149
Proulx, Henry, Vol. 3, 120; Nicholas, 113
Provost, Charles, Vol. 3, 114
Pynchon Company petitions for permission to settle new plantation, Vol. 1, 33; Dr. Charles, 342; Dr. Joseph, 342.—John, succeeds to authority in the town, Vol. 2, 10; Maj. John, becomes commander of militia, Vol. 2, 27.—Major John, defense of Springfield, Vol. 1, 49; Major John, his great loss, 50; planters return to Massachusetts jurisdiction, 34.—William, Vol. 2, 6; accused of speculation, 9; and

family return to England, 5; deposed as magistrate, 9; his book and its consequences, 9; his book burned by order of the magistrates, 9.—Purchases land from Indians, Vol. 1, 25.—Trades in grain with Indians, Vol. 2, 8

Quaker troubles in Westfield, Vol. 2, 356
Queen Anne's War, Vol. 1, 59

Railroads, Vol. 1, 175; Amherst and Belchertown, 185; Boston and Albany, 181; Boston and Maine, 183; Hartford and Springfield Co., 181; Holyoke and Westfield, 187; Indian Orchard, 185; Mt. Holyoke, 184; New London, Willimantic and Palmer, 184; New York, New Haven and Hartford, 183; Northampton and Springfield, 183; Northampton and Westfield, 187; Springfield and Athol, 187; Springfield and Farmington Valley, 187; Springfield and Longmeadow, 185; The Hampden, 186; The Western, 178; Ware River, 186
Rand, Dr. J. P., Vol. 1, 386; Dr. N. W., 385.—Elder, founds seminary, Vol. 3, 36
Rebellion, war of, Vol. 1, 198
Regiment, 3d Heavy Art., Vol. 1, 217; 8th Inf., 216; 10th Inf., 201; 18th Inf., 204; 21st Inf., 205; 27th Inf., 205; 30th (unattached Co.) Heavy Art., 218; 31st Inf., 208; 34th Inf., 210; 36th Inf., 211; 37th Inf., 212; 42d Inf., 217; 46th Inf., 213
Renslow, Dr. M. B., Vol. 1, 407
Representatives in Congress, Vol. 1, 124
Revolution, war of, Vol. 1, 69
Rice, Caleb, Vol. 1, 318.—John L., Vol. 2, 195
River Navigation, Vol. 1, 188
Rivers, Frank A., Vol. 3, 121
Robert, Clovis, Vol. 3, 121
Robinson, George D., Vol. 1, 329
Roy, Charles V., Vol. 3, 121
Russell, town of, Vol. 3, 438; necessity for incorporation, 438; settlers petition for new town, 438; record of pioneers, 439; early settlement, 439; census statistics, 442; stable population in the town, 442; turnpike and railroads, 442; civil history, 444; list of selectmen, 444; town clerks, 446; villages and hamlets, 447; the Centre village, 448; business interests, 448; Fairfield village, 449; industries of the town, 449; church history, 449; the Congregational church, 450; the M. E. church, 450; schools, 451; some prominent men, 451

Sacred Heart School, Vol. 2, 140
Safe Deposit and Trust Co., the Springfield, Vol. 2, 234
Salmon Falls, how named, Vol. 1, 195
Samoset Lodge, Vol. 1, 496
Savings Banks, the Five Cents, Vol. 2, 240; the Hampden, 239
Sawin, Dr. William J., Vol. 1, 375
Saybrook Fort, Vol. 2, 323
Scholar's Journal, Vol. 1, 446
Schools (of Springfield), Vol. 2, 113; Central high, 127; The Elms, 139; Parochial, 140; The MacDuffie, 140; International Y. M. C. A. training, 141; The Springfield Business, 144
Science Building, The, Vol. 2, 182
Searle, Dr. Flavius, Vol. 1, 396
Secretary of Commonwealth, Vol. 1, 124
Seeger, Dr. Edward, Vol. 1, 351
Selectmen, list of in Springfield, Vol. 2, 68
Senators, list of, Vol. 1, 125; in Congress, 124
Sessions, William Vyne, Vol. 3, 556
Shad Fisheries, Vol. 1, 194
Shaw, Dr. Samuel, Vol. 1, 387
Shays, Daniel, the insurgent leader, Vol. 1, 90; Rebellion, the, 86
Shearer, Dr. Jonathan, Vol. 1, 345
Sheldon, Dr. William, Vol. 1, 346
Shepard, Gen. William, commands Massachusett's troops during Shays' rebellion, Vol. 1, 94; report of attack on U. S. armory, 96.—Sketch of, Vol. 2, 414
Sheriffs, list of, Vol. 1, 151
Shurtleff, William S., Vol. 1, 325
Skipmuck, in Chicopee, Vol. 3, 484
Smith, Dr. Alvin, Vol. 1, 376; Dr. David P., 373; Dr. James M., Vol. 1, 367.—Henry, departs from the town, Vol. 2, 10; succeeds Pynchon as head of the plantation, 9
Soldier's Rest, The, Vol. 1, 229
Sons of Liberty, the, Vol. 1, 70
Soule, Augustus Lord, Vol. 1, 309
South Brimfield, Vol. 3, 394
South End Bridge, history of, Vol. 1, 171
Southwick, Vol. 3, 196; early settlement, 196; the district organization, 197; ratable polls, 1781, 197; town organization, 198; list of selectment, 199; town clerks, 202; the early wars, 202; during the revolution, 203; the war of 1812-15, 205; during the rebellion, 205; some prominent

men, 206; census statistics, 207; school interests, 207; the village settlement, 208; the Congregational church, 208; the Baptist church, 209; the M. E. church, 210
South Wilbraham, village, Vol. 3, 550
Speakers of the House, Vol. 1, 148
Spellman, Solomon C., Vol. 3, 557
Springfield, plantation forms alliance with Connecticut, Vol. 1, 34; attacked and burned, 47; troops, attack Indians, 55; settlements attacked, 60; troops, attacked by Indians, 63; troops, garrison Ft. Shirley, 63; a point of operations, 76; cannon manufactured at, 76; and Athol Railroad, 187; Republican, The, 425; Gazette, 427; Daily Republican, 428; Union, The, 435; Council, 476; Commandery, 477; Encampment, 491.—City of, Vol. 2, 1; first colonists of, 2; first house, 2; plantation established at Agawam, 2; the founders' covenant, 3; lands purchased from Indians, 3; new colonists arrive, 4; allotment of the lands, 4; house lots laid out, 5; Pynchon returns to England, 5; Henry Smith succeeds Pynchon as leader, 9; George Moxon called as minister, 10; new settlers arrive, 10; name changed to, from Agawam, 11; the first negro settler, 15; list of inhabitants in, 17; new towns set off, 19; permanency of the town doubtful, 20; second allotment of lands, 20; first annual town meeting, 20; troubles with Connecticut towns, 20; the first meeting-house, 22; Fort Pynchon built, 22; first tavern built, 24; house of correction built, 24; Indian animosities, 24; burning of, by the Indians, 25; list of settlers killed, 25; discouragement of inhabitants, 25; settlers advised to remove to eastern colonies, 25; militia company formed, 27; settlers take oath of allegiance, 27; taxable inhabitants of, 32; men killed at Louisburg, 33; ratable polls in, 37; events of the revolution, 39; minutemen and militia companies, 40; Gen. Washington visits the town, 42; Parsons tavern in, 42; demands upon the town during revolution, 44; town becomes military depot, 46; cannon made in the town, 46; town made rendezvous for troops, 46; first newspaper established, 46; Longmeadow set off, 47; county seat removed to Northampton, 48; situation in, at beginning of 19th century, 48; early business interests, 49; town again becomes a county seat, 51; rivalries over location of county buildings, 52; Court Square laid out, 54; institutions established, 55; early merchants of, 56; Justice Willard's prophecy, 62; the railroad agitation, 62; the bi-centennial celebration, 63; the town becomes a city, 64; City hall built, 65; celebration of 250th anniversary, 65; census statistics, 68; list of selectmen, 68; town clerks of, 79; municipal history, 80; discussions regarding Chicopee district, 80; Chicopee set off, 81; act incorporating the city, 82; wards established, 83; first city election, 83; end of town government, 84; municipal civil list, 85; mayors of, 85; city clerks, 86; city treasurers, 86; aldermen, 86; common councilmen, 86; presidents of common council, 108; assessors, 109; overseers of the poor, 110; city physicians, 111; city engineers, 112; superintendents of almshouse, 112; city solicitors, 112; superintendents of streets, 112; city marshals, 112; license commissioners, 112; city messengers, 113; educational chapter, 113; early school methods, 113; school precincts formed, 114; first high school, 116; first superintendent of schools, 117; first high school principal, 117; high school re-established, 118; old school committee, 120; school organization under the charter, 121; superintendents of schools, 124; the Central high school, 127; high school principals, 129; high school statistics, 130; later school committees, 131; high school population, expenditures and enrollment, 136; description of school property, 137; private schools, 138; parochial schools, 140; International Y. M. C. A. training school, 141; the Bible normal college, 142; the French-American college, 142; Business school, 144; the fire department, 145; the fire club, 146; fire commissioners appointed, 152; chief engineers fire department, 154; fire commissioners, 154; the water supply, 155; the Aqueduct company, 156; water commissioners appointed, 157; water department statistics, 159; water commissioners of, 159; the almshouse, 160; the city parks, 161; Forest park, 164; park commission organized, 164; park appropriations, 169; park commissioners, 169; libraries, 170; library site donated, 175; library endowment fund, 179; city appropriations for library,

179; the art building, 180; officers library association, 182; the library corps, 183; the postoffice, 184; free postal delivery established, 193; the custom house and postoffice, 195; cemeteries, 196; the first burial ground, 196; second parish grave yard, 197; hospitals of, 202; home for friendless women and children, 209; home for aged women, 210; the board of trade, 217; banking and financial institutions, 221; insurance companies of, 241; Fire and Marine Insurance Co., The, 243; The Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., 246; the Street railway system, 249; Mercantile and Manufacturing interests, 255; Manufacturing Co., 262; Satinet Co., 265; Congregational churches, 281; Methodist Episcopal churches, 291; Baptist churches, 296; Unitarian church, 302; Protestant Episcopal churches, 305; Universalist churches, 307; Roman Catholic churches, 308; Evangelical churches, 313
State Normal School (Westfield), Vol. 1, 264; opening of, 274; principals of, 290
Steamboats, Connecticut River, Vol. 1, 191
Stearns, George M., Vol. 1, 322
Stebbins John M., Vol. 1, 327
Stickney, Dr. H. G., Vol. 1, 375; Dr. P. LeB., 369
St. John, John, Vol. 3, 122
St. John's Lodge, Vol. 1, 497
St. Joseph's school, Vol. 2, 141
St. Michael's Hall school, Vol. 2, 140
Street Railways, Springfield, Vol. 2, 249.—Holyoke, Vol. 3, 54
Stockwell, Dr. C. S., Vol. 1, 412
Stoddard, Col. John, commands Hampshire county regiment, Vol. 1, 63
Stone, Dr. John, Vol. 1, 346
Stowe, William, Vol. 2, 192
Swan, Dr. James, Vol. 1, 351
Swazey, Dr. George W., Vol 1, 283
Swinck, Peter, the first negro settler, Vol. 2, 15
Sylvan Lodge, Vol. 1, 470

Tatham, in West Springfield, Vol. 3, 233
Taylor, Dr. Levi C., Vol. 1, 406.—Edward, minister at Westfield, Vol. 2, 393; Eldad, sketch of, 417; & Tapley Manufacturing Co., The, 272
Tekoa Lodge, Vol. 1, 495
Temple, Masonic, Vol. 1, 482
Tenth Infantry, Vol. 1, 201
The Talisman, Vol. 1, 445
The Bench, Vol. 1, 306
The Elms, boarding school, Vol. 2, 139
The French instigate Indians against the English settlements, Vol. 1, 58
Third Heavy Artillery, Vol. 1, 217
Thirty-first Infantry, Vol. 1, 208
Thirty-fourth Infantry, Vol. 1, 210
Thirty-seventh Infantry, Vol. 1, 212
Thirty-Sixth Infantry, Vol. 1, 211
Thomas Lodge, Vol. 1, 467
Thorndike, village, Vol. 3, 145
Three rivers, village, Vol. 3, 144
Tolland, town of, Vol. 3, 453; part of Bedford plantation, 453; the West parish of Granville, 453; the town incorporated, 453; location and natural features, 453; early settlement, 454; early town life, 456; census statistics, 456; list of selectmen, 457; town clerks, 459; resources of the town, 460; villages and hamlets, 461; the Congregational church, 461; the town schools, 462; some prominent men, 462
Town of Agawam, Vol. 3, 523.—Blandford, history of, Vol. 2, 482; Brimfield, history of, 456.—Chester, Vol. 3, 348; East Longmeadow, 429; Granville, 247; Hampden, 542; Holland, 394; Longmeadow, 410; Ludlow, 312; Monson, 266; Montgomery, 335; Palmer, 123; Russell, 438; Southwick, 196; Tolland, 453; Wales, 463.—Westfield, history of, Vol. 2, 317.—West Springfield, Vol. 3, 210; Wilbraham, 165
Tracy, Dr. W. J., Vol. 1, 376
Transcript, The Holyoke, Vol. 1, 458
Treasurers and Receivers-General, Vol. 1, 124
Treaty of Paris, Vol. 1, 81; Ryswick, 59
Trial Justices, appointment of authorized, Vol. 1, 298
Trust Co., The Hampden, Vol. 2, 235
Tully, Dr. William, Vol. 1, 352
Turner, Captain, death of, Vol. 1, 55
Turnpikes, Vol. 1, 154
Tuscarora Encampment, Vol. 1, 498
Twenty-First Infantry, Vol. 1, 205
Twenty-Seventh Infantry, Vol. 1, 205

United States Armory, Vol. 1, 83; attack upon by Shays' forces, 96
Ufford, Dr. Edward G., Vol. 1, 346
Unity Chapter, Vol. 1, 476

Vaille, Dr. Henry R., Vol. 1, 367
Valley Echo, The, Vol. 1, 453
Vanhorn, Dr. John, Vol. 1, 344
Vincent, Arthur R., Vol. 3, 122
Vose, Henry, Vol. 1, 311

Wales, town of, Vol. 3, 463; part of the common lands, 463; early jurisdictional history, 463; early settlement, 464; character of the townspeople, 466; the "court of justice and honor," 467; early town representatives, 467; during the revolution, 467; civil history, 468; list of selectmen, 468; town clerks, 471; census statistics, 472; during the revolution, 473; war of 1812-15, 474; the village, 474; some early postmasters, 475; business interests on "the street," 475; old-time manufactures, 476; the Shaw interests, 476; present business interests, 478; church history, 478; town school interests, 481; factors in town history, 481
Walker, George, Vol. 1, 324
Waltham Watch Co., The, Vol. 2, 269
War of 1812-15, events of, Vol. 1, 100; political situation preceding, 101; of 1861-5, 198
Warren, Dr. J. K., Vol. 1, 387
Warriner, Col. Solomon, Vol. 2, 191
Washington Council, Vol. 1, 477.—Gen., visits Springfield, Vol. 2, 42
Wason Manufacturing Co., The, Vol. 2, 266
Water Commissioners, Springfield, Vol. 2, 159
Water Power Co., The Holyoke, Vol. 3, 73. —Springfield, Vol. 2, 267
Water Works, Holyoke, Vol. 3, 30
Waterman, Dr. James H., Vol. 1, 374
Weekly Mirror, The Holyoke, Vol. 1, 456
Weld, Ezra, Vol. 2, 188
Wells, Gideon, Vol. 1, 328; John, 308
Western Hampden Times, Vol. 1, 451; railroad corporation, history of, 175
West Granville, village of, Vol. 3, 262
Westfield Advertiser, Vol. 1, 451; attacked by Indians, 52; Journal, 445; Lodge, 495; News Letter, 448; Register, 444; Spectator, 446; Standard, 446; State Normal School, 264; Times and News-Letter, 452. —Town of, Vol. 2, 317; physiography, 317; beginning of settlement, 322; troubles with Connecticut, 322; the first settlers, 324; forests and glades, 325; division of lands, 327; town organization, 330; the first town center, 335; defenses against Indians, 335; advantages of village settlements, 337; relation to the Indians, 339; militia organized, 340; during King Philip's war, 343; settlers refuse to remove to Springfield, 344; heroism of the settlers, 350; inhabitants ordered to settle together, 354; the Quaker troubles, 356; early highways, 357; the early French and English wars, 363; the Doctor Ashley house, 366; early habits and customs, 368; home life of the settlers, 368; the Moseley house, 371; early meeting-houses, 384; seating the settlers, 386; the town ministers, 393; minister Edward Taylor, 393; extracts from Minister Taylor's diary, 394; the new meeting-house, 401; the last town minister, 403; the Congregational church established, 403; the Second Congregational church, 405; during the revolution, 405; list of revolutionary soldiers, 407; Shays' rebellion in the town, 413; education in the town, 420; the academy founded, 423; the high school, 429; the athenuem, 431; churches of, 432; the First Congregational church, 432; the Second Congregational church, 433; Methodist churches of, 434; the Universalist church, 435; the Episcopal church, 435; St. Mary's church, 436; industrial history, 438; paper manufactures, 441; banking history, 442; charitable institutions, 444; list of selectmen, 444; list of town clerks, 454; town representatives, 455
West Springfield, town of, Vol. 3, 210; location and early history, 210; relation to Springfield, 211; early settlement, 212; apportionment of lands, 212; the second parish formed, 212; beneficiaries of the land division, 214; during King Philip's war, 215; organization and civil history, 216; controversy with Springfield, 216; committees appointed, 217; act creating the town, 218; the original territory, 219; Holyoke and Agawam set off, 220; list of selectmen, 220; list of assessors, 224; town clerks, 224; list of reprsentatives, 224; during the revolution, 225; companies of minutemen, 226; incidents of the war, 227; during Shays' rebellion, 228; Luke Day's army, 228; census statistics, 229; war of 1812-15, 229; war of the rebellion, 230; the industries of the town, 231; villages of the town, 231; the educational system, 234; the school committees, 238; the public library, 239; the fire department, 240; the water supply, 241; church history, 241; cemeteries, 247
Wheeler, Dr. Calvin, Vol. 1, 351
Whip manufactures of Westfield, Vol. 2, 438
White George H., Vol. 1, 395

Wilbraham, town of, Vol. 3, 165; development of the outward commons, 165; proprietors threatened with forfeiture, 166; early settlement, 166; character of the pioneers, 167; attempts at organizing a parish, 169; the fourth precinct of Springfield, 169; the precinct becomes a town, 171; precinct committees, 172; town organization, 172; list of selectmen, 173; town clerks, 175; the early settlers, 176; census statistics, 178; military history, 178; during the revolution, 179; war of 1812-15, 183; in the rebellion, 183; school interests, 183; Wesleyan academy, 184; church history, 188; Congregational church, 188; the M. E. church, 189; Grace Union church, 190; the Baptist society, 190; villages and hamlets, 190; North Wilbraham, 191; some prominent men, 193
Wilkins, Dr. G. H., Vol. 1, 387
Willard, Justice, Vol. 1, 318
Williams, Col. Ephraim, Vol. 1, 65; Col. Israel, of Hatfield, Vol. 1, 65; Dr. Leonard, Vol. 1, 346.—Rev. Stephen, an incident, Vol. 3, 415
Willimansett bridge, Vol. 1, 173.—Settlements in, Vol. 3, 486
Windsor, stockade built at, Vol. 1, 32
Witchcraft in Springfield, Vol. 2, 21
Woods, Dr. J. U., Vol. 1, 387
Woolworth, Dr. Isaac, Vol. 1, 402
Woronoco Advertiser, Vol. 1, 451.—Committee, Vol. 2, 326.—Indians, Vol. 1, 24; Lodge, 494; Palladium, 446.—Street railway Co., Vol. 2, 444
Worthington, John, Vol. 1, 313; Vol. 2, 34
Wright, Dr. Lucius, Vol. 1, 346

York, Duke of, grants to, Vol. 1, 18
Young Men's Christian Association, Holyoke, Vol. 3, 52.—Springfield, Vol. 2, 212
Young Men's Institute, Vol. 2, 171

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